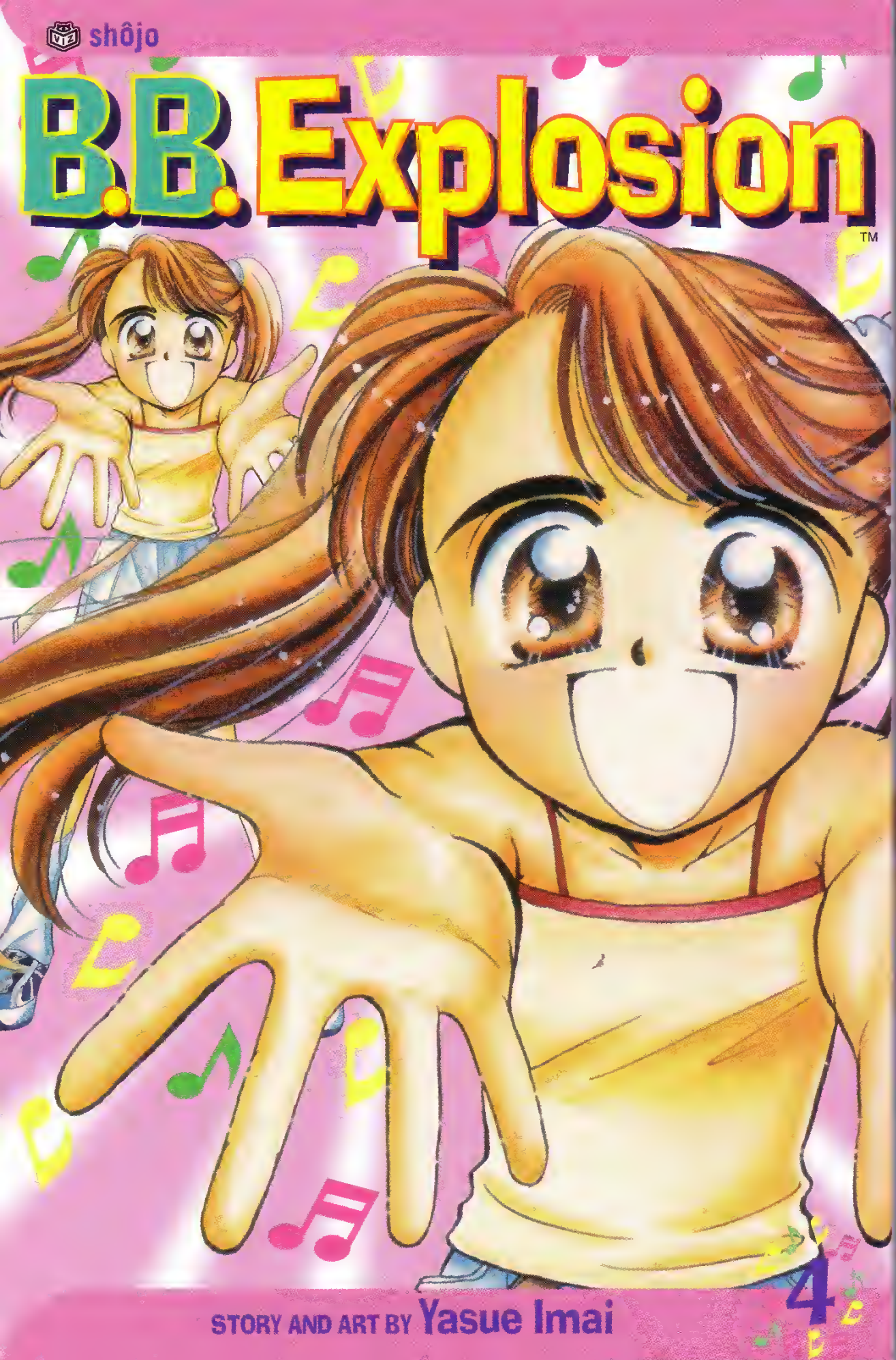
shôjo

B.B. Explosion™



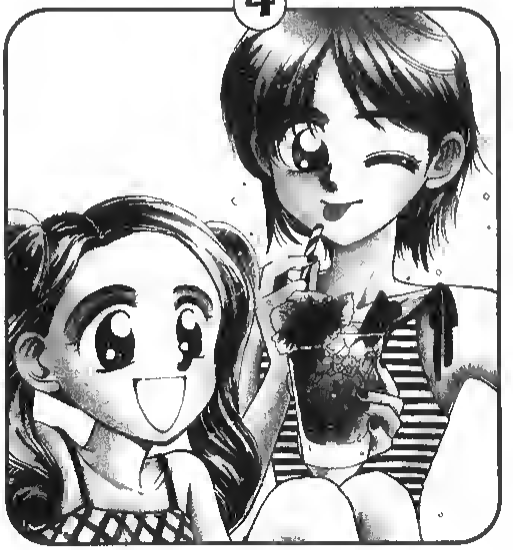
STORY AND ART BY Yasue Imai

4

VIZ Graphic Novel

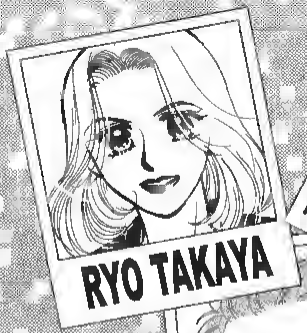
B.B. Explosion™

4



Story and Art by

Yasue Imai



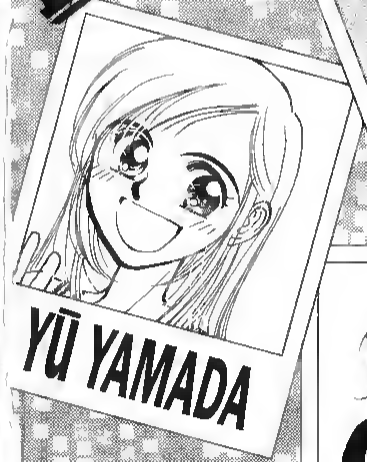
SYNOPSIS

MANY A GIRL IN OKINAWA DREAMS OF THE OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL. AND AIRI MADE IT INTO THE SCHOOL!!

EVERYDAY SHE WORKS HARD AT HER LESSONS ALONGSIDE HER FRIENDS YŪ AND YUMI. ISSA, SINGER IN DA PUMP IS THERE, TOO... BUT HE LEFT FOR TOKYO AND STARDOM. AIRI PROMISED HERSELF THAT SHE TOO WOULD BECOME A STAR.

AFTER SINGING A SOLO AT AN ACTORS SCHOOL CONCERT, AIRI IS PICKED UP BY THE FAMOUS PRODUCER MS. TAKAYA AND IS SET TO BEGIN LESSONS IN TOKYO. AFTER STUMBLING MANY TIMES, AIRI FINALLY FINDS HER OWN STYLE. HER DEBUT SINGLE QUICKLY SELLS OUT AND GOES TO NO. 1 ON THE CHARTS!!

B.B. EXPLOSION 4



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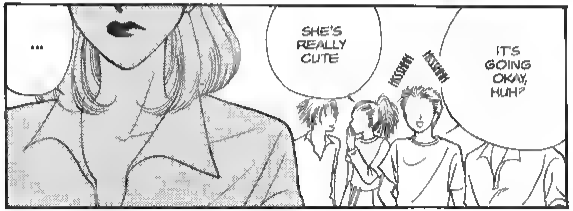
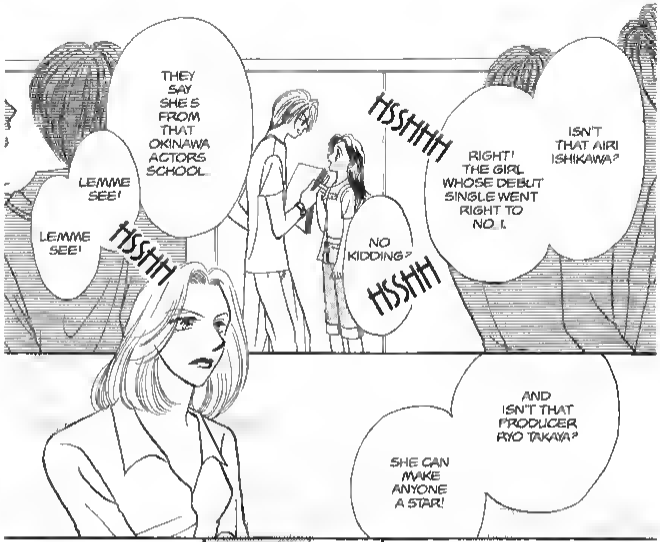
MORNING! I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT WORKING WITH YOU!
STUDIO 69

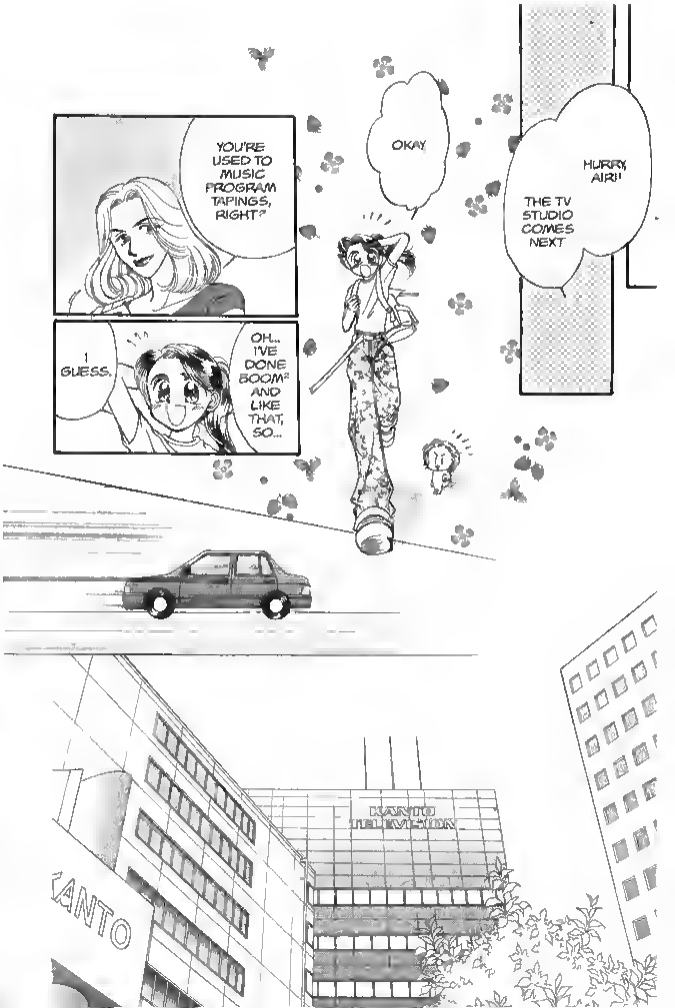
CHANGE THE POSE A BIT
GREAT! JUST LIKE THAT
I'M KINDA NERVOUS
SO MANY PEOPLE...


...
SHE'S REALLY CUTE
HSSHH
HSSHH
IT'S GOING OKAY, HUH?


THEY SAY SHE'S FROM THAT OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL...
LEMME SEE!
LEMME SEE!
HSSHH
HSSHHHH
NO KIDDING?
HSSHH
RIGHT! THE GIRL WHOSE DEBUT SINGLE WENT RIGHT TO NO. 1.
ISN'T THAT AIRI ISHIKAWA?
AND ISN'T THAT PRODUCER RYO TAKAYA?
SHE CAN MAKE ANYONE A STAR!

OKAY THEN...
HERE WE GO!
LET ME SEE A SUNNY POSE
IT'S FOR THE COVER OF A TEEN MAGAZINE SO
BRRR
...

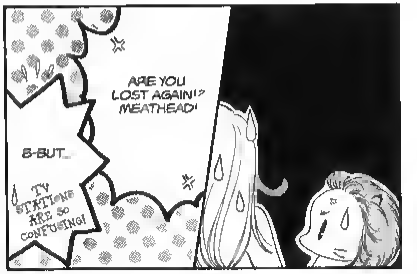
MAKE-UP ROOM 3
AIRI, I'M GOING ON AHEAD TO TALK TO THE DIRECTOR.
IT'S STUDIO F, SO HURRY!
O-OKAY! GOT IT!
SURE!
WE'RE A BIT LATE
A NATURAL LOOK IS FINE, SO COULD YOU HURRY?
EVERYTHING'S SO RUSHED
OKAY. YOUR MAKE-UP'S DONE GO ON OUT
THANKS!


YOU'RE USED TO MUSIC PROGRAM TAPINGS, RIGHT?
I GUESS.
OH... I'VE DONE BOOM[2] AND LIKE THAT, SO...
OKAY
HURRY, AIRI!
THE TV STUDIO COMES NEXT
KANTO TELEVISION
KANTO

NO WAY!
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO! ARE WE GONNA DIE LIKE THIS, RIGHT HERE FROM STARVATION, LOST FOREVER?!
ARGH!
SI-I-ILENCE
KLK
KLK
KLK
YOU'RE LATE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!! I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE!
NO TIME FOR CRYING!! LET'S GO!
OOOOH!
WE'RE SAVED!

CLOP
STUDIO A
E
F
CLOP!
WOOSH!
GOTTA HURRY!
CLOP
CLOP!
AH ..
WOOSH!
THIS PLACE... DIDN'T WE JUST PASS IT...!?
UH-OH...
OOPS?

L-LET'S ASK SOMEONE!!
ANYONE!

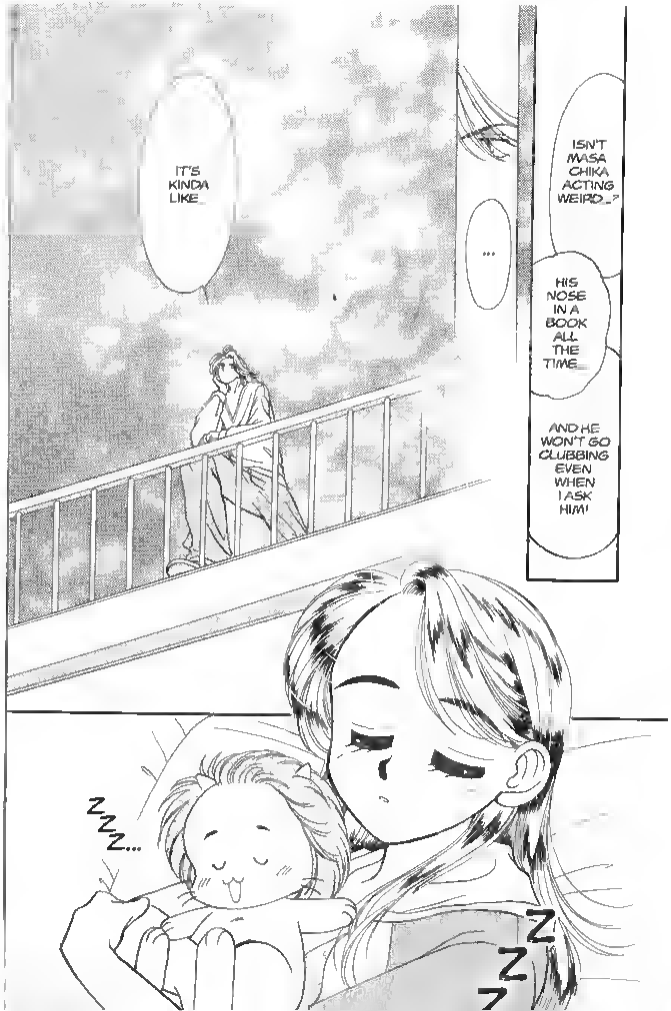

ARE YOU LOST AGAIN!? MEATHEAD!
B-BUT... TV STATIONS ARE SO CONFUSING!

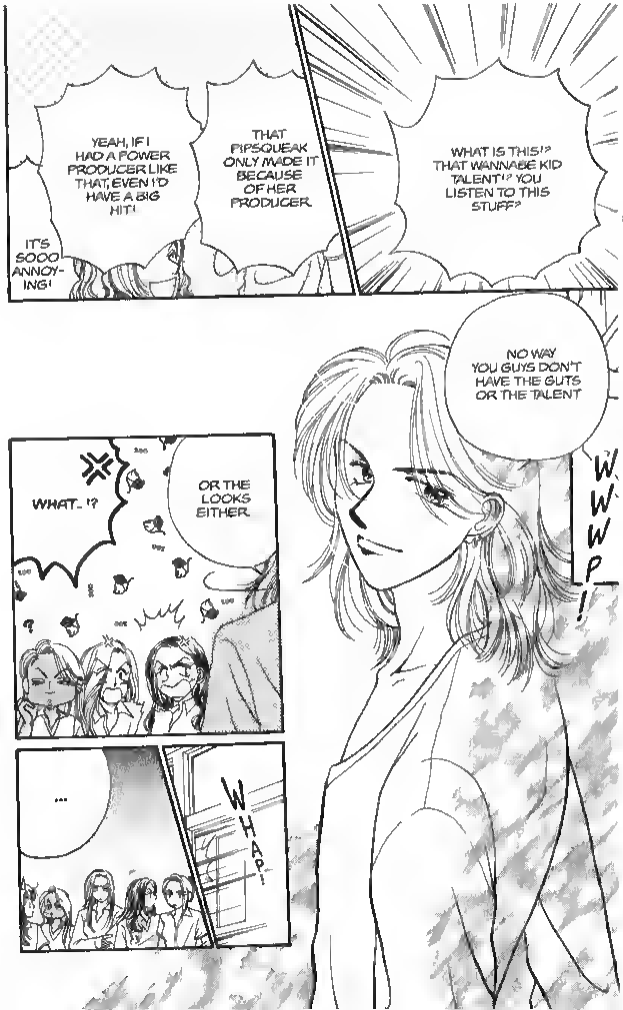
ON MY OWN...!
GOT IT?
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT ON YOUR OWN
AND SOME OF THEM MIGHT HAVE BAD INTENTIONS
AND EVERYONE'S EYES WILL BE ON YOU WHEREVER YOU GO...
NOW, GO ON

RECORDING
STUDIO F
NO SMOKING
IT'S HUMONGOUS!!
THREE STAGES! AND SO MANY CAMERAS...!
TAP!
TOKYO'S BIGGER THAN YOU EVER DREAMED...
YOU'RE NOT IN OKINAWA ANYMORE...
LISTEN CAREFULLY, AIRI...

♪♪♪
1-A
MEISHO MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL
I SAID, MASACHIKA!
!
...UM
WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO!?
BEYOND THE FAIRY
WELL, YEAH...
THIS IS NEW... YOU ACTUALLY HERE AT SCHOOL

I WANT EVERYONE... TO HEAR MY SONG...!!
I JUST WANT TO SING MY SONG...!!
WOW SHE'S GOOD

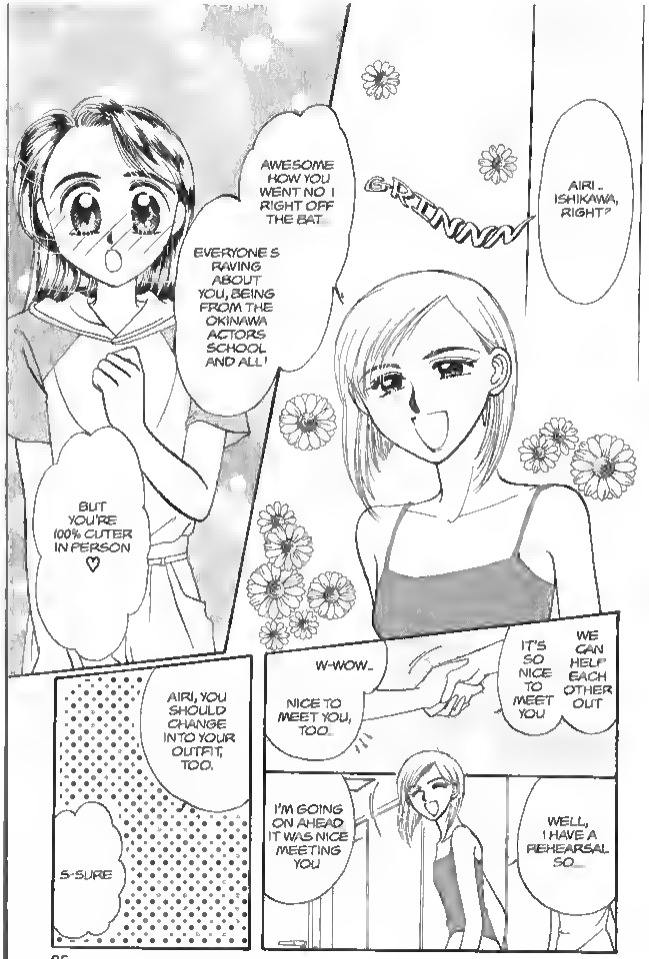

IT'S KINDA LIKE...
...
ISN'T MASA CHIKA ACTING WEIRD...?
HIS NOSE IN A BOOK ALL THE TIME...
AND HE WON'T GO CLUBBING EVEN WHEN I ASK HIM!
ZZZ...
ZZZ

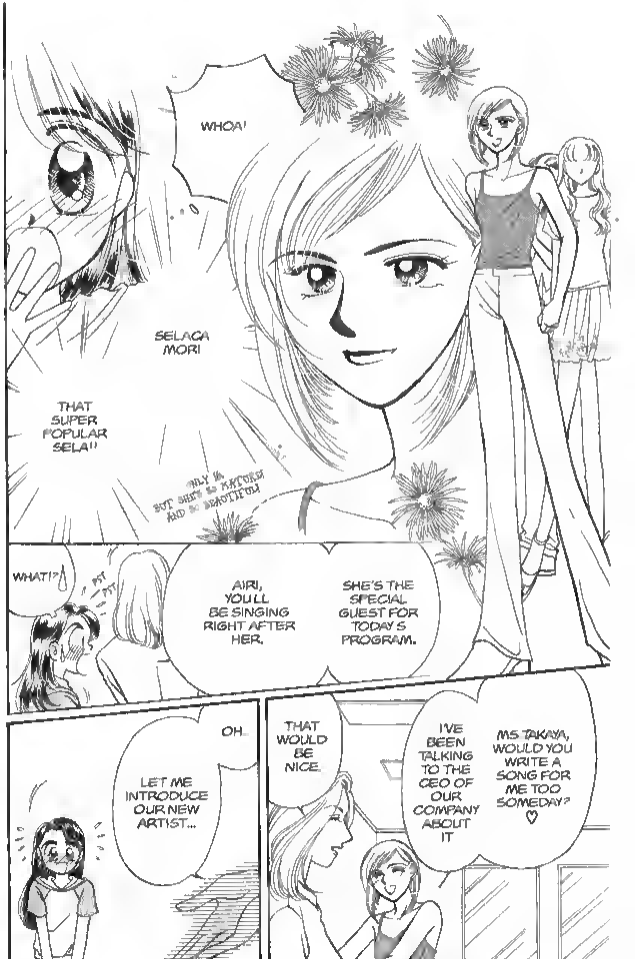

IT'S SOOO ANNOY-ING!
YEAH, IF I HAD A POWER PRODUCER LIKE THAT, EVEN I'D HAVE A BIG HIT!
THAT PIPSQUEAK ONLY MADE IT BECAUSE OF HER PRODUCER.
WHAT IS THIS!? THAT WANNABE KID TALENT!? YOU LISTEN TO THIS STUFF?
NO WAY YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE THE GUTS OR THE TALENT
WWWP!
WHAT..!?
OR THE LOOKS EITHER.
...
WHAP!

I WANT THEM TO HEAR MY VOICE EACH TIME I SING..
AND I WANT PEOPLE TO HEAR ME...
I...I MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST BUT I'M SINGING MY HEART OUT...
N-NO...
I... I'M SORRY ACTING SO HIGH AND MIGHTY..
NOT... AT ALL
ULP!

...
IT'S OKAY.
I WASN'T SNORING OR ANYTHING, WAS I?
H-I DIDN'T REALIZE I'D FALLEN ASLEEP!
ON TOP OF YOUR DAILY LESSONS..
YOU MUST BE TIRED, WITH ALL THE TV AND RADIO APPEARANCES, AND MAGAZINE SHOOTS..
AIRI, WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
AGH!
HUH?
DO YOU WANT TO LIP-SYNCH IT?
THE SONG STAGE WE'RE GOING TO NOW..

TODAY WE'RE BROADCASTING LIVE - THERE'LL EVEN BE AN AUDIENCE
YOUR FIRST TIME, RIGHT?
CHUCKLE
OOH! STARS!
AN AUDIENCE...
A LIVE BROADCAST..
IF IT'S A LIVE BROADCAST.. I HAVE ONLY ONE CHANCE.. I CAN'T MESS UP..!
MS TAKAYA!
GOOD MORNING
OH!
NOT AT ALL..
SONG-STAGE
MONTH DAY (LIVE BROADCAST) PROGRESSION LIST
3:00~
5:00~
5:35~
6:25~
8:00~ ON AIR


AIRI, ISHIKAWA, RIGHT?
GRINNN
AWESOME HOW YOU WENT NO 1 RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
EVERYONE'S RAVING ABOUT YOU, BEING FROM THE OKINAWA ACTORS SCHOOL AND ALL!
BUT YOU'RE 100% CUTER IN PERSON ♡
W-WOW..
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO..
IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU
WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER OUT
AIRI, YOU SHOULD CHANGE INTO YOUR OUTFIT, TOO.
S-SURE
I'M GOING ON AHEAD IT WAS NICE MEETING YOU
WELL, I HAVE A REHEARSAL SO...

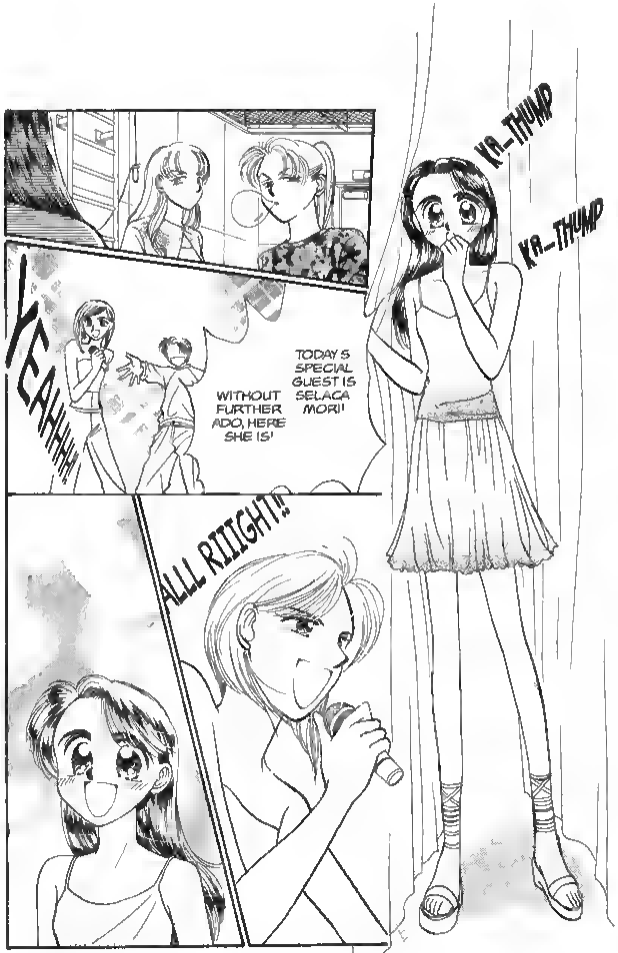

WHOA!
SELAGA MORI
THAT SUPER POPULAR SELA!!
ONLY SHE'S NATURAL AND SO BEAUTIFUL!
WHAT!?
AIRI, YOU'LL BE SINGING RIGHT AFTER HER.
SHE'S THE SPECIAL GUEST FOR TODAY'S PROGRAM.
OH..
LET ME INTRODUCE OUR NEW ARTIST...
THAT WOULD BE NICE.
I'VE BEEN TALKING TO THE CEO OF OUR COMPANY ABOUT IT
MS. TAKAYA, WOULD YOU WRITE A SONG FOR ME TOO SOMEDAY? ♡

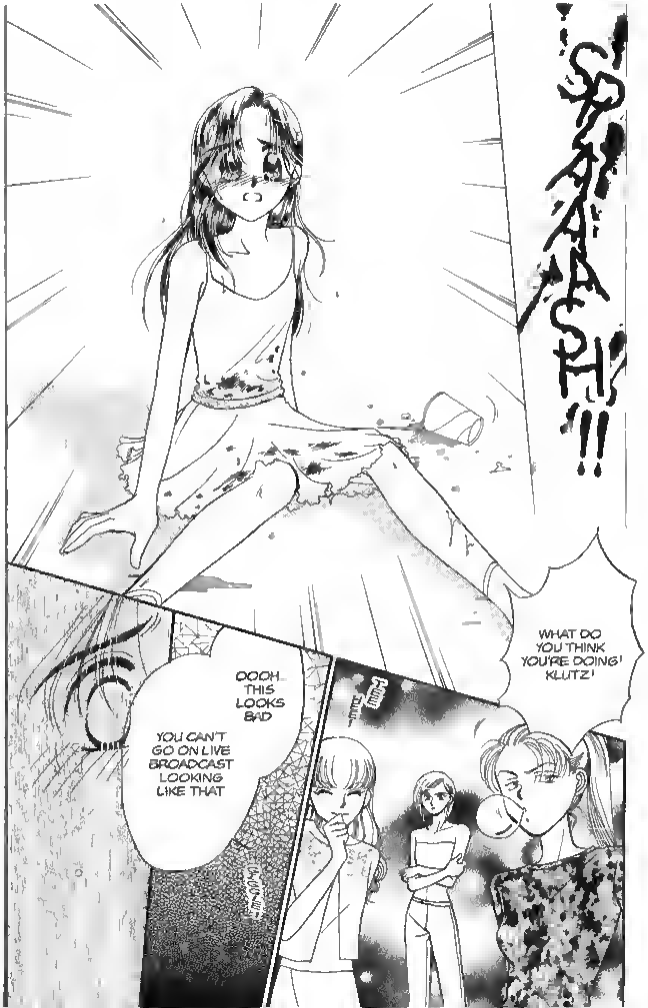
I'M NOT SINGING JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT...
ON AIR
FLASH
5
4... 3...
OKAY WE'RE GOING LIVE!!

SHE'S A BIG STAR, BUT SHE'S SO REAL.
I'M GLAD SHE WAS SO NICE
JUST LIKE ON TV ♡

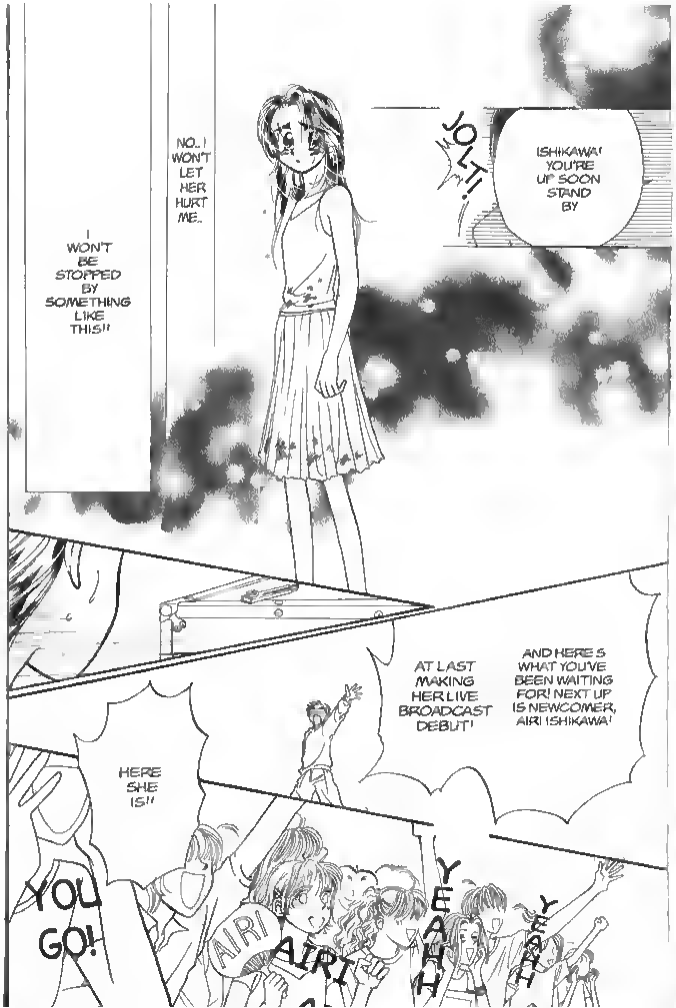
THAT DESCRIBES YOU TOO, DOESN'T IT.
LUCKY HER. HAVING TAKAYA PRODUCE! IT'S AN AUTOMATIC HIT
NO WONDER SHE'S NO 1.
HUMPH! ACTS LIKE SHE OWNS THE PLACE JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A LITTLE CUTE
HAS THE WRONG ATTITUDE, IF YOU ASK ME...

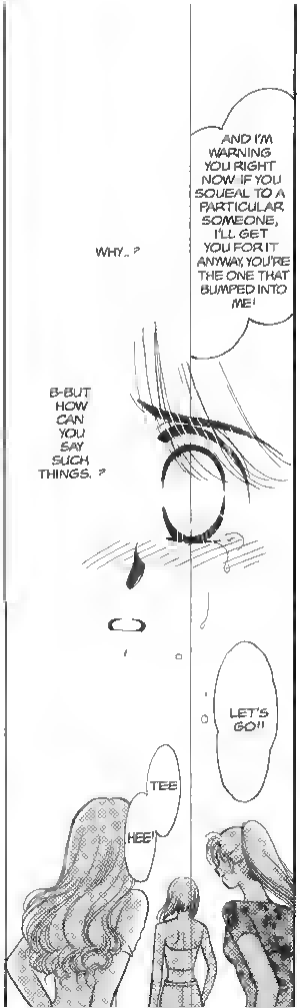
HER MOVES ARE PERFECT!
AWESOME!! SHE'S FANTASTIC!
ALLL RIIGHT!!!
SELAAA!
GO GO GO!!!
SHE'S SO COOL!
YEEEAAHHH!

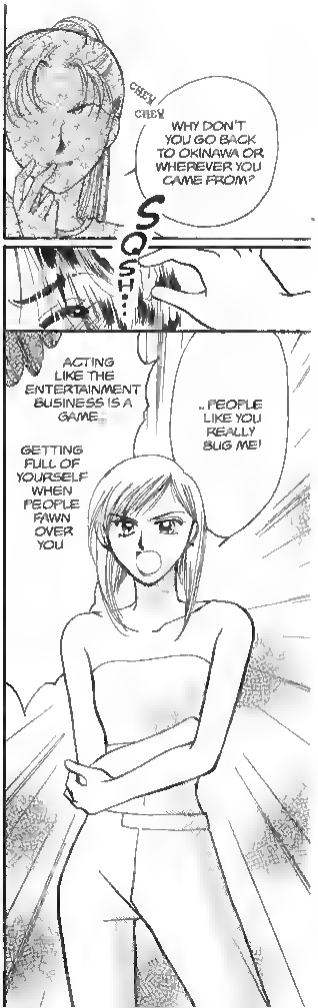

KYAHHH!
WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, HERE SHE IS!
TODAY'S SPECIAL GUEST IS SELACA MORI!
ALL RIIGHT!!
KYA-THUMP
KYA-THUMP

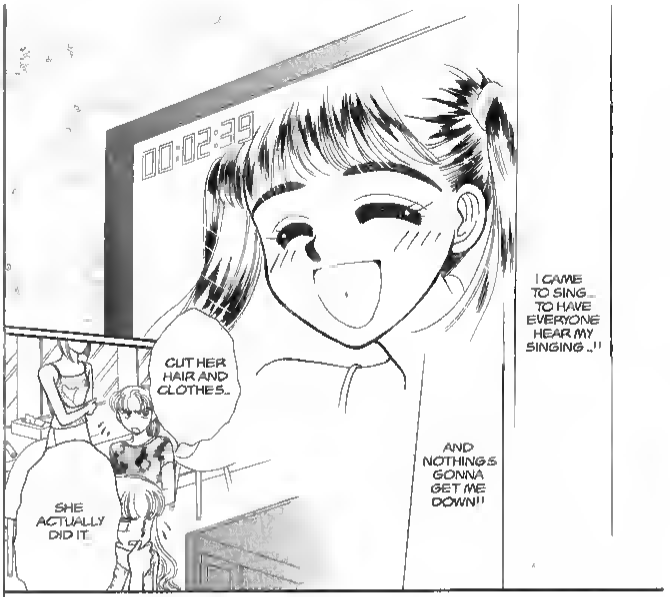

SPLASH!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING! KLUTZ!
OOOH... THIS LOOKS BAD
YOU CAN'T GO ON LIVE BROADCAST LOOKING LIKE THAT

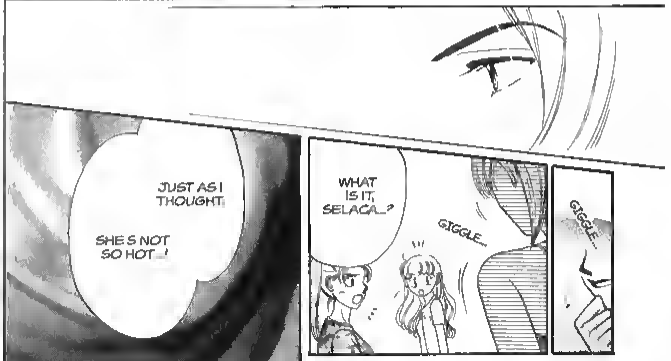
COFFEE
GREAT JOB
WE'RE GOING TO COMMERCIAL SELAGA, WARDROBE CHANGE
YOU WERE WONDER-FUL!
MS. ISHIKAWA, YOU GO ON RIGHT AFTER THE COMMER-CIAL!
HUH!?
AAAH..!
KRRRUNCH!!!
COFFEE


I WON'T BE STOPPED BY SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!
NO.. I WON'T LET HER HURT ME..
JOLT!!
ISHIKAWA! YOU'RE UP SOON STAND BY
AT LAST MAKING HER LIVE BROADCAST DEBUT!
AND HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! NEXT UP IS NEWCOMER, AIRI ISHIKAWA!
HERE SHE IS!!
YOU GO!
AIRI
AIRI
YEAH
YEAH
YEAH

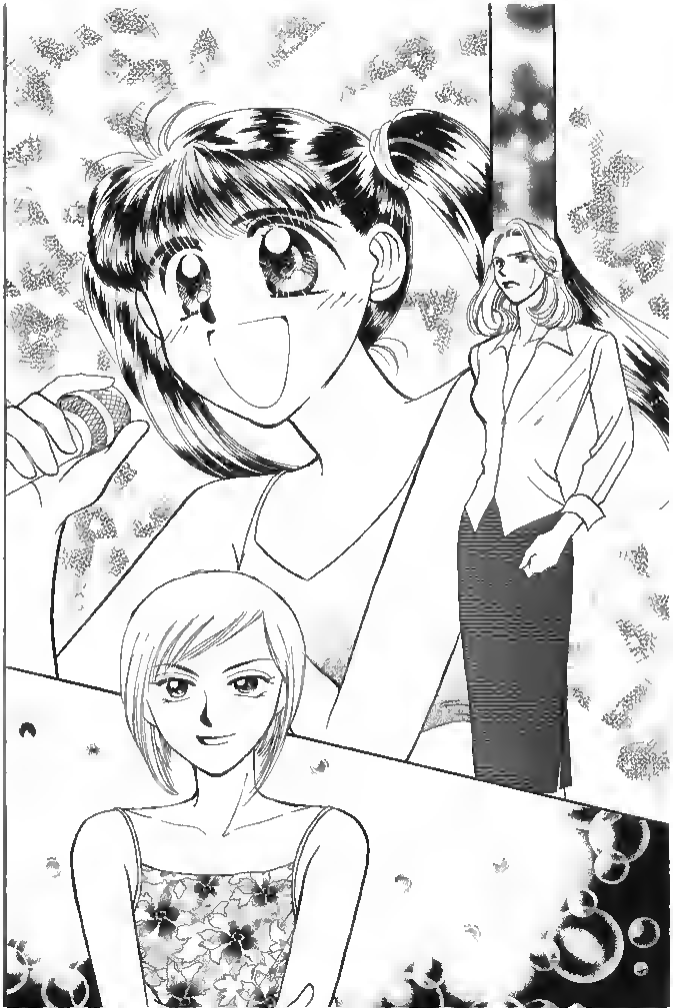

WHY..?
AND I'M WARNING YOU RIGHT NOW IF YOU SQUEAL TO A PARTICULAR SOMEONE, I'LL GET YOU FOR IT ANYWAY, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT BUMPED INTO ME!
B-BUT HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH THINGS..?
LET'S GO!!
TEE
HEE!

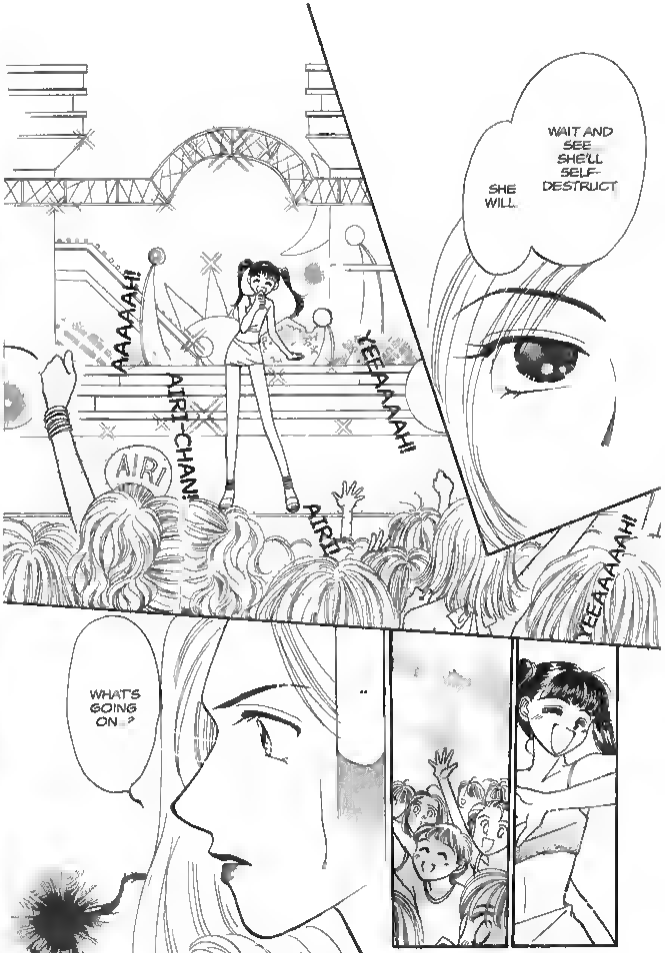

CHEW
CHEW
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO OKINAWA OR WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM?
SOSH..
ACTING LIKE THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS IS A GAME..
GETTING FULL OF YOURSELF WHEN PEOPLE FAWN OVER YOU
..PEOPLE LIKE YOU REALLY BUG ME!


00:02:39
I CAME TO SING... TO HAVE EVERYONE HEAR MY SINGING..!!
AND NOTHING'S GONNA GET ME DOWN!!
CUT HER HAIR AND CLOTHES..
SHE ACTUALLY DID IT..
57

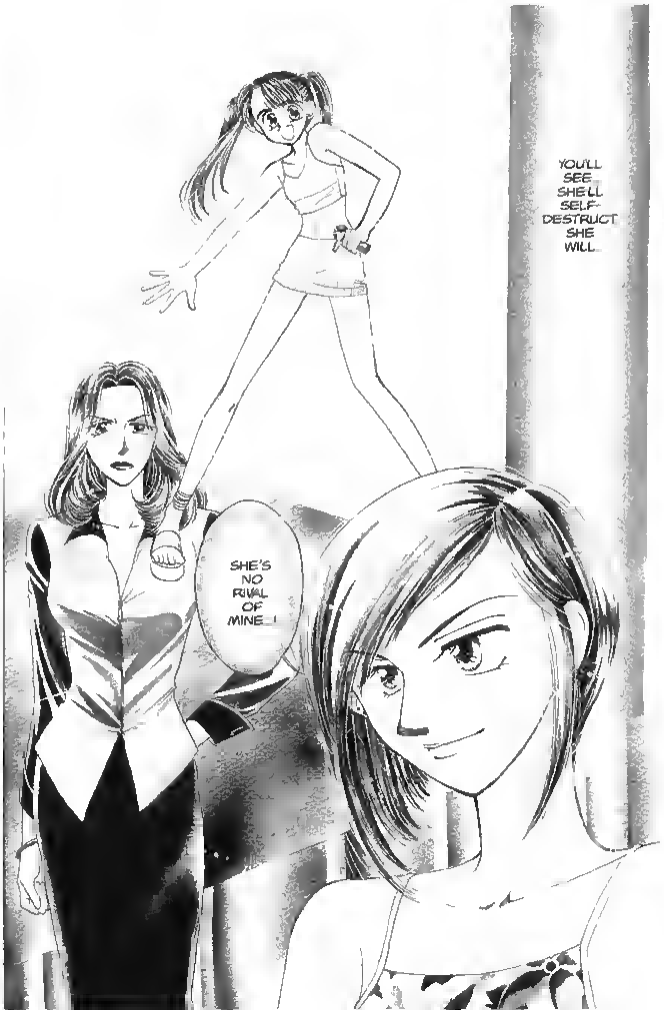

JUST AS I THOUGHT.
SHE'S NOT SO HOT...!
WHAT IS IT, SELACA..?
GIGGLE..
GIGGLE..

COULDN'T SHE HAVE JUST GONE ON...
NO...
CLICK
SELACA MORI
UNOCCUPIED
SELA! SHE'S ON STAGE
WEEAAAAH!
AIRI!
AIRI!
AIRI..?



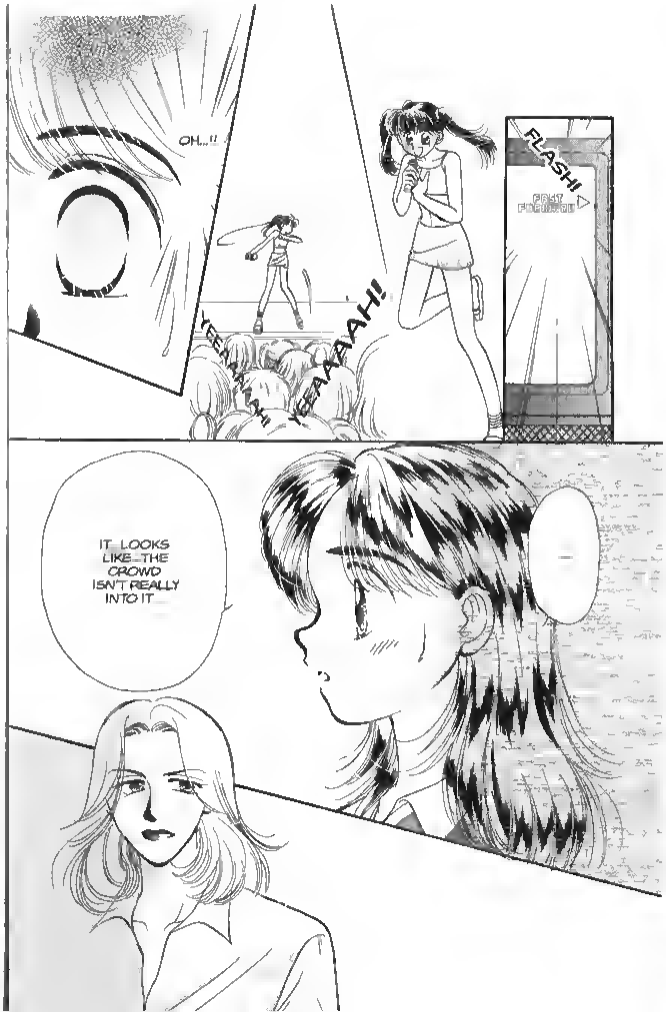

WAIT AND SEE SHE'LL SELF-DESTRUCT
SHE WILL.
AAAAAH!!
AIRI-CHAN!
AIRI
YEEAAAAH!!
AIRI!!
YEEAAAAAH!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

MISS SELACA MORI
UNOCCUPIED
YOU GUYS DON'T GET IT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!? SELACA.
YEAH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
LOOK AT THE AUDIENCE'S REACTION
AIR
NO MATTER HOW SHE SINGS, THEIR REACTION DOESN'T CHANGE AT ALL
THEY'RE ALL WORKED UP JUST BECAUSE SHE'S NEW

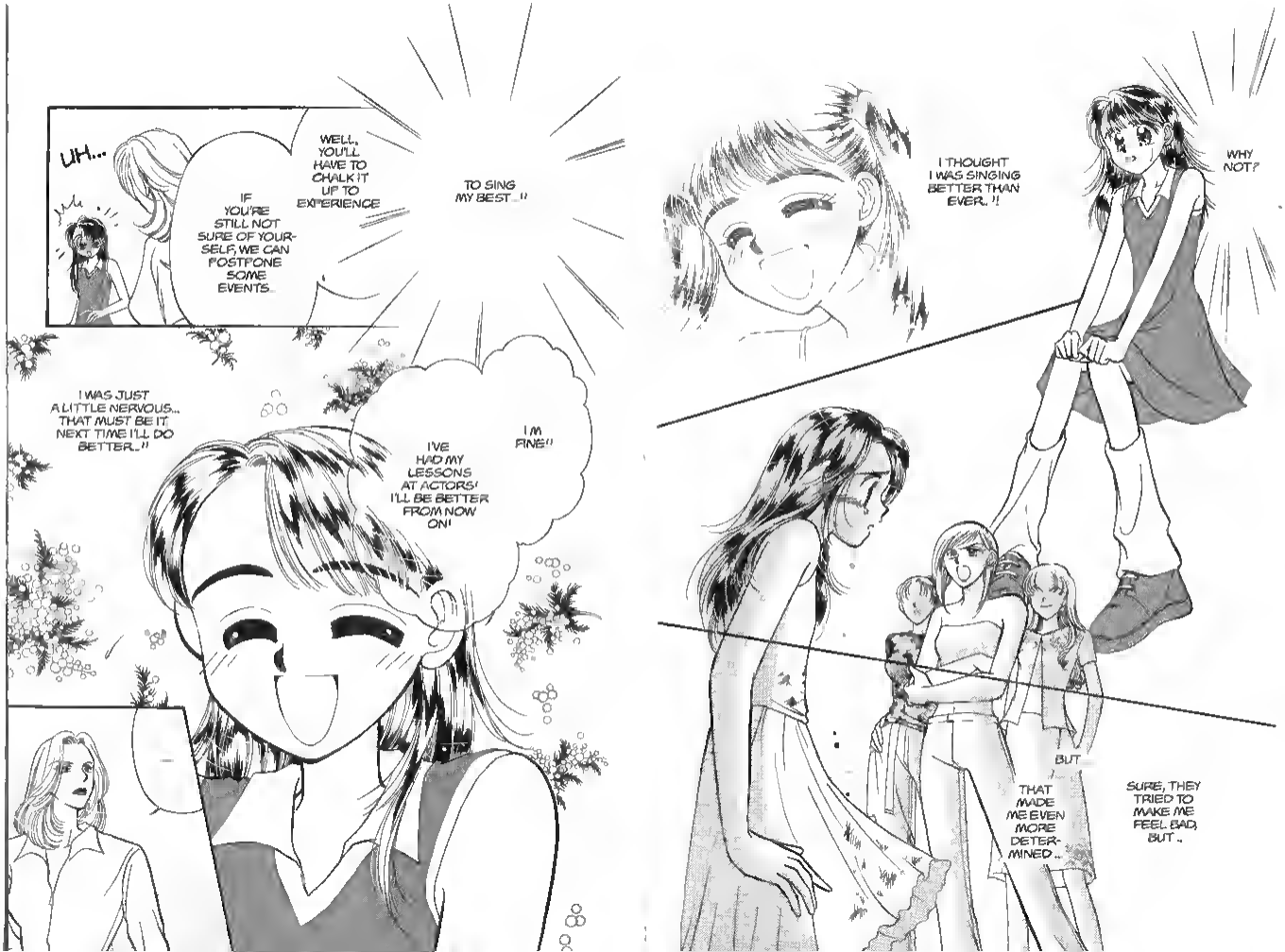

YOU'LL SEE. SHE'LL SELF-DESTRUCT SHE WILL.
SHE'S NO RIVAL OF MINE..!

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE CROWD GETS TIRED OF HER.!
WOW! I WAS SO NERVOUS!
TA DA!
ON AIR
GREAT JOB, YOU GUYS!
GREAT!
MS. TAKAYA?

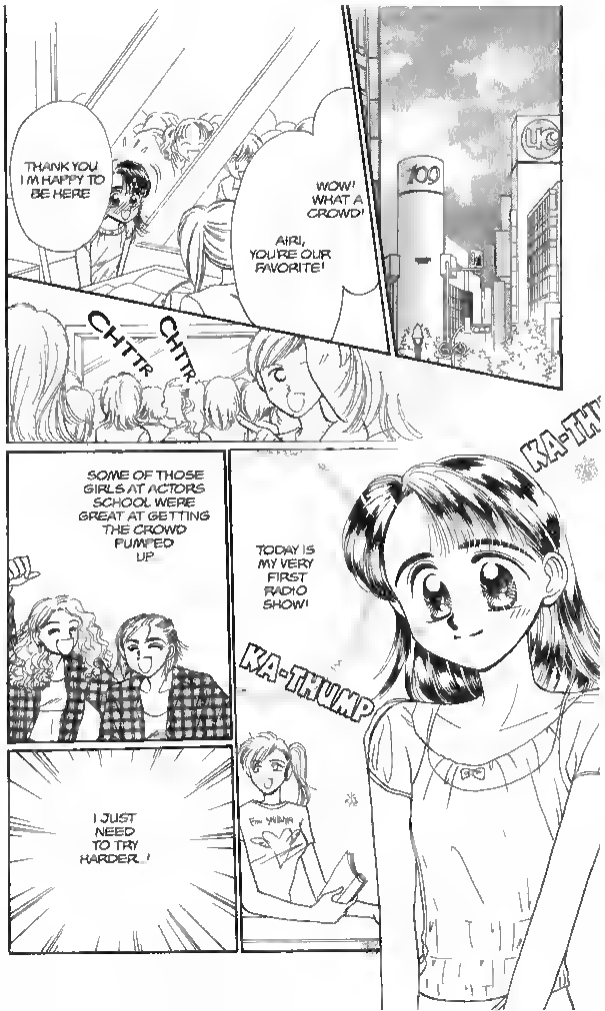
AND SHE HASN'T REALIZED THIS YET...
AIR! ISHIKAWA DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO GRAB HER AUDIENCE
HOW CAN SHE CALL HERSELF A PROFESSIONAL?


OH...!!
FLASH!
YEEAAAAAH!
YEEAAAAH!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE CROWD ISN'T REALLY INTO IT

"TELL ME WHAT YOU NOTICE."
...WELL, NO MATTER. WE'LL GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT. I'LL HAVE YOU WATCH THIS VIDEO OF TODAY'S PROGRAM.
SONG STAGE
AIRI, THAT HAIR! THAT OUTFIT!
WHAT HAP-PENED?
MUSIC ROOM
SELACA
SELAAA!
CLAP
CLAP CLAP
YEEAAAAH!
YEEAAAAAH!!
STOMP!!

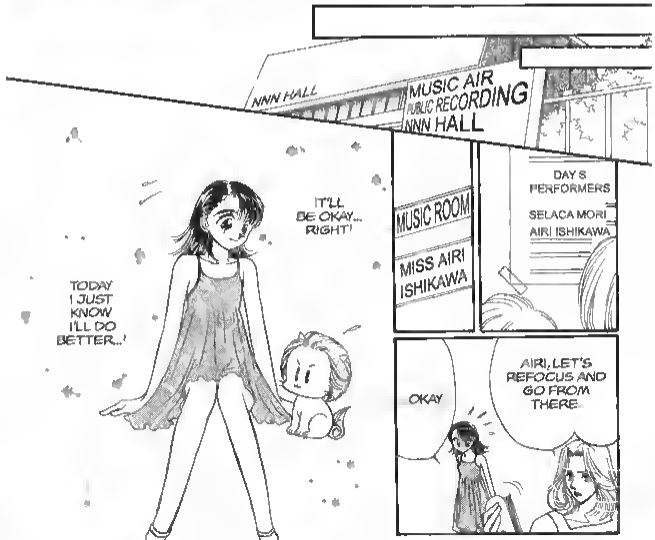

UH...
WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO CHALK IT UP TO EXPERIENCE
IF YOU'RE STILL NOT SURE OF YOURSELF, WE CAN POSTPONE SOME EVENTS...
TO SING MY BEST...!!
I WAS JUST A LITTLE NERVOUS... THAT MUST BE IT. NEXT TIME I'LL DO BETTER..!!
I'VE HAD MY LESSONS AT ACTORS' I'LL BE BETTER FROM NOW ON!
I'M FINE!!
I THOUGHT I WAS SINGING BETTER THAN EVER..!!
WHY NOT?
BUT
THAT MADE ME EVEN MORE DETERMINED..
SURE, THEY TRIED TO MAKE ME FEEL BAD, BUT..

PSST
PSST
IT'S OKAY I CAN DO IT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
IT'S KINDA DISAPPOINTING
LET'S GO, WE'LL GET SOAKED
LET'S GO SHE'S NOT THAT INTERESTING ANYWAY
ONOOO! A DOWN-POUR!
WHSSSHHH!
PLOP
PLOP!
WHAT RAIN...!
AAAH!


THANK YOU I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE
WOW! WHAT A CROWD!
AIRI, YOU'RE OUR FAVORITE!
CHTTR
CHTTR
SOME OF THOSE GIRLS AT ACTORS SCHOOL WERE GREAT AT GETTING THE CROWD PUMPED UP...
I JUST NEED TO TRY HARDER...!
TODAY IS MY VERY FIRST RADIO SHOW!
KA-THUMP
KA-TH

MOVE AROUND THE STAGE A LOT..
I'LL DANCE BETTER THAN EVER! SING MY HEART OUT!!
MOVE MY HANDS AROUND...
I KNOW I CAN DO THIS!!

THEY'RE ALL... LEAVING..!!


NNN HALL
MUSIC AIR PUBLIC RECORDING NNN HALL
MUSIC ROOM
MISS AIRI ISHIKAWA
DAY'S PERFORMERS
SELACA MORI
AIRI ISHIKAWA
TODAY I JUST KNOW I'LL DO BETTER...!
IT'LL BE OKAY... RIGHT!
OKAY
AIRI, LET'S REFOCUS AND GO FROM THERE.

SELACA
ISHIKAWA, I'M SORRY FOR MY RUDE BEHAVIOR THE OTHER DAY.
OH!
WHY!?
I NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED ABOUT A SINGER LIKE YOU
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME TO OKINAWA ALREADY!?
THIS ISN'T A WORLD WHERE A LITTLE NOBODY LIKE YOU CAN MAKE IT

CLAP
CLAP
SO THIS IS AIRI?
KINDA BORING, ISN'T SHE?
SHE HAS A GOOD VOICE, BUT THERE'S NO FEELING
I WANT TO SEE SELACA AGAIN SOON
WH-WHY!?
I'M SURE I SANG WELL..!!
THANK YOU, AIRI ISHIKAWA
I WAS THINKING SO HARD ABOUT THE AUDIENCE!!
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

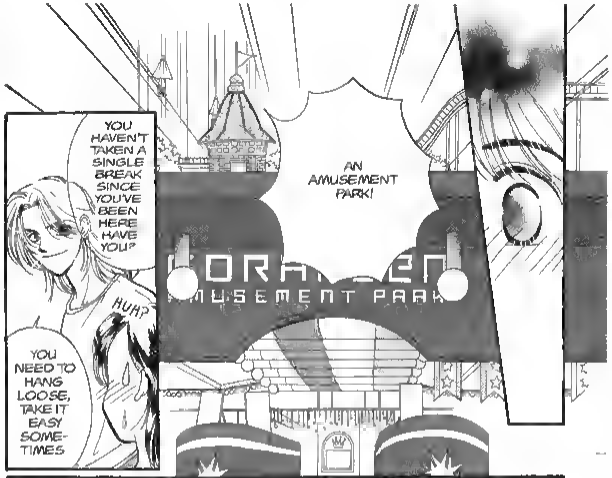
LESSON ROOM
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU! YOU'RE NOT TRYING!!
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE NEXT WEEK'S EVENT!
BUT I ALWAYS NEED TO BE AT THE TOP !!
YEEAAAH!!
YEEAAAH!!
YEAHHH!
YEEAAAAAH!
AND NOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! SELACA IS TAKING THE STAGE!
SELA!
SELAAA!
SORRY ABOUT THAT..

CALL ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING
I WANT TO GO HOME...
DAD..
GCHH!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AIRI?
WE'RE FINISHED FOR TODAY REST UP A LITTLE.
THE CROWD DOESN'T ACCEPT ME..!!
...I'M SCARED...
...I'M SCARED..!!
ABOUT ST..NDING IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE..
I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO STAND ON A STAGE BY MYSELF ANYMORE..!!

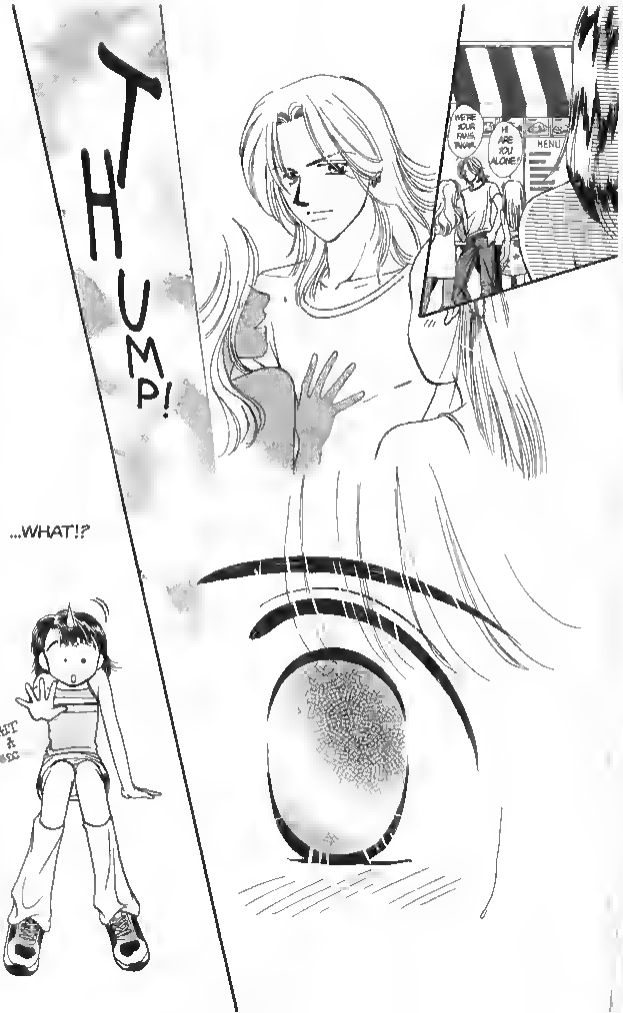
WAIT A SEC! WHAT IS THIS?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING ME?!
TAKE IT EASY TAKE IT EASY
I DON'T BELIEVE HIM!! HE'S TAKING OVER!
HOLD TIGHT!

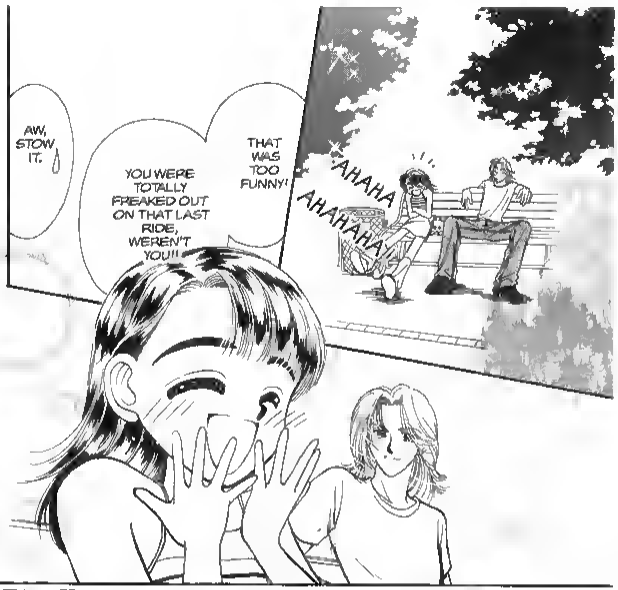
NO MATTER HOW HARD IT GETS, I PROMISED MYSELF I'D TOUGH IT OUT...!!
NO, I CAN'T...!!
BECAUSE I PROMISED MYSELF... THAT I'D FIGHT IT OUT HERE!
KNOCK KNOCK
HUH?
HEY, KID. YOU FREE?

SIGH
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM? ACTING LIKE A KID..!
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S THAT?
OKAY THAT ONE NEXT!


AN AMUSEMENT PARK!
AMUSEMENT PARK
YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN A SINGLE BREAK SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE. HAVE YOU?
HUH?
YOU NEED TO HANG LOOSE, TAKE IT EASY SOMETIMES

HEY, WAIT!
GRAB!
AW, C'MON, LET'S GO
WANT TO RIDE ON THAT?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!!
HMPH!
HOLD ON A MINUTE!
YOU CAN BRING ME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS BUT...


THUMP!
...WHAT!?
WAIT A SEC
HERE YOUR FANS, MA'AM.
HI ARE YOU ALONE?
MENU


AW, STOW IT.
YOU WERE TOTALLY FREAKED OUT ON THAT LAST RIDE, WEREN'T YOU!!
THAT WAS TOO FUNNY!
AHAHA AHAHAHA

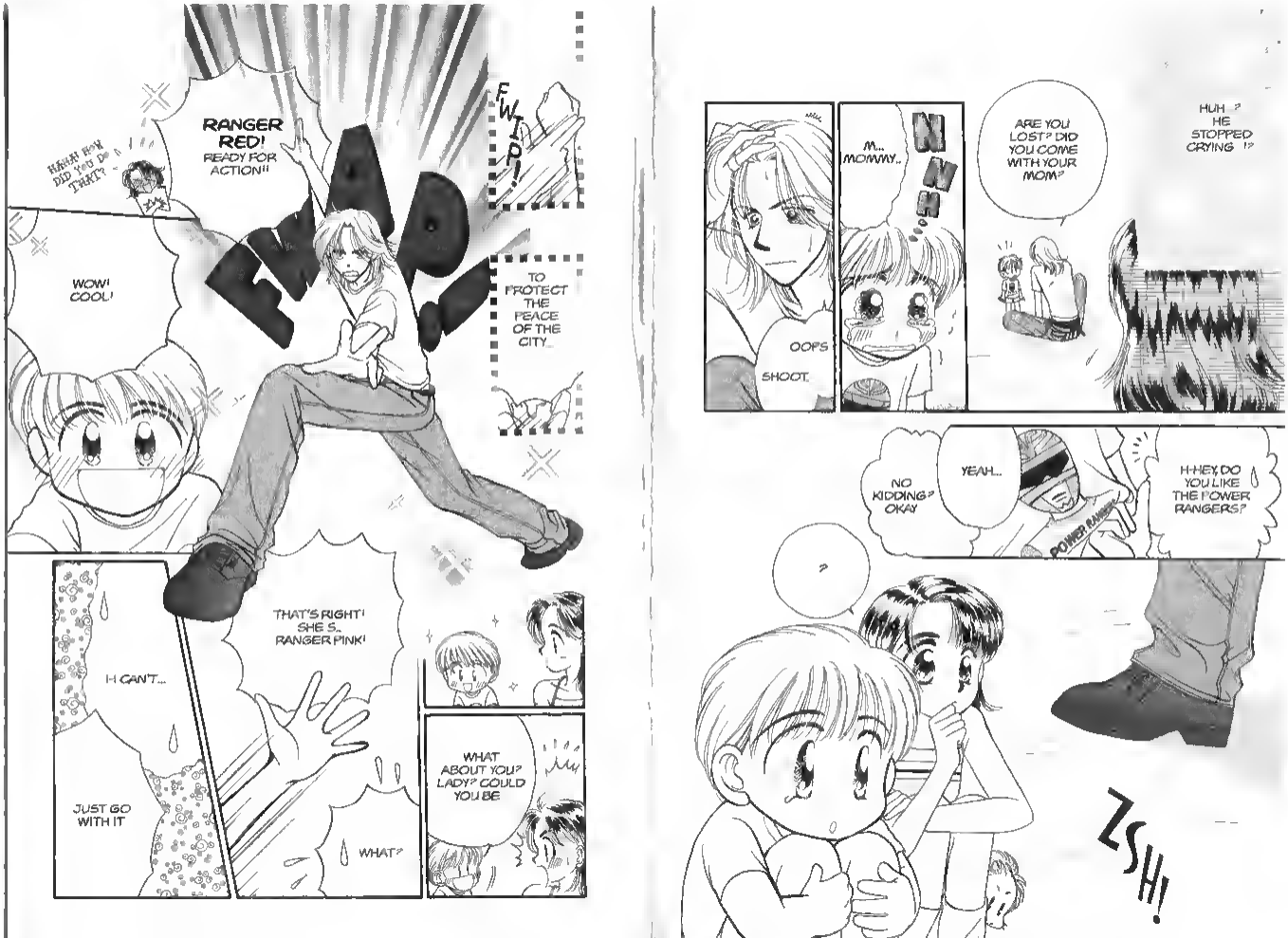
I SEE HE MAKE IN ALL THE SMART CHICKS
HEY, WAIT, ISN'T THAT M-HIGH'S TAKAYA?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! TO FIND HIM IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
WE'RE SO LUCKY!
SHOULD WE GO? OR SHOULD WE GO? WHAT A CATCH!

WAIT HERE A SEC
HUH?
OKAY

ARE YOU OKAY, CESAR?
WHEW!

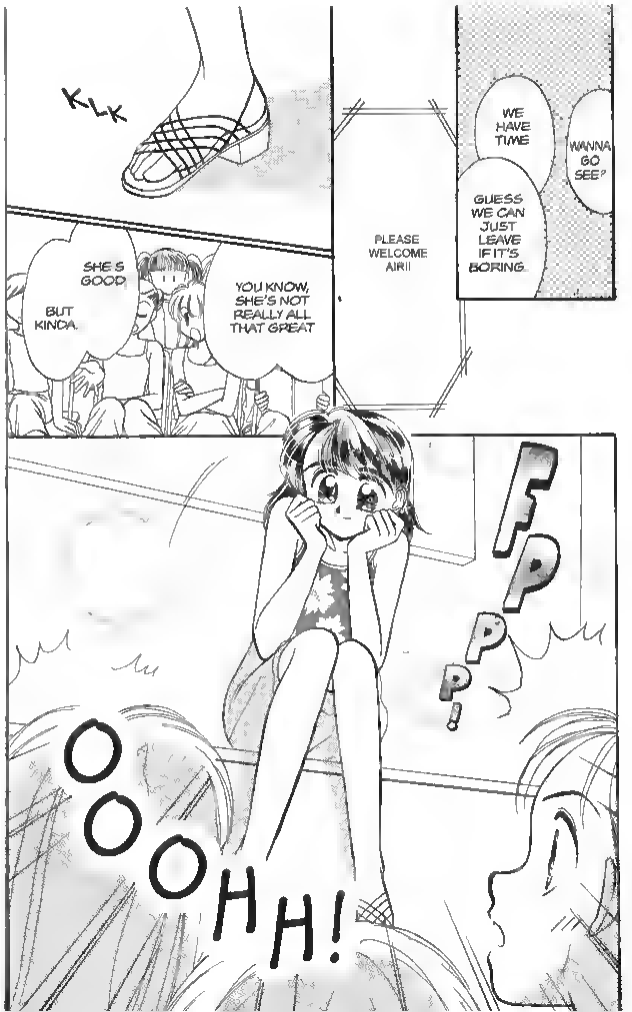
WAAAAAAH!
HUH?
WHAT TO DO!
OH NO!
WAAAAH!
WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER?
BWAAAAAAAH!
THIS IS NOT A DATE!! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!! A DATE IS SOMETHING THAT A COUPLE..
WHAT'S WRONG, KID?
SWSH
DANGER

I HATE THAT GUY!
WH-WHAAAT? WHAT IS GOING ON?
HMM?
IS IT... OKAY? THOSE GIRLS.
WHAT'S UP?
AAAAGH!
HEY
HERE, WANT A DRINK?
OH. THANKS
D-DATE!?
I'M ON A DATE WITH YOU NOW, RIGHT?


HAHH BOY DID YOU DO THAT?
RANGER RED! READY FOR ACTION!!
FWIP!
FWAP
WOW! COOL!
TO PROTECT THE PEACE OF THE CITY...
I-I CAN'T...
JUST GO WITH IT
THAT'S RIGHT! SHE'S... RANGER PINK!
WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? LADY? COULD YOU BE
OOPS
SHOOT
M... MOMMY..
NNH
ARE YOU LOST? DID YOU COME WITH YOUR MOM?
HUH...? HE STOPPED CRYING!?
NO KIDDING? OKAY
YEAH...
POWER RANGERS
H-HEY, DO YOU LIKE THE POWER RANGERS?
?
ZSH!

AWESOME HE GOT EVERYONE AROUND HIM INTO IT.
AW, THAT WAS SO EMBARRASSING!!
BUT KINDA FUN, TOO.
YOU KNOW..
IT CAN'T HURT TO BE RELAXED ONSTAGE.
BECAUSE IF YOU AREN'T TRULY HAVING FUN FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART LIKE NOW
OH..!!

AHAHAHA!
THAT'S SO COOL! DO MORE!
RANGER PINK!! HELLO!
RANGER.
FLIP!
THEN I'LL BE THE BAD GUY
THEN I'M RANGER BLUE!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING? LOOKS LIKE FUN!
CHTTR
CHTTR
ISN'T HE CUTE?
KAZUHIRO!
HE'S SOO CUTE!
OOOH!!
OOOH!!
HEY
THANK YA. ♡


KLK
SHE'S GOOD.
BUT KINDA.
YOU KNOW, SHE'S NOT REALLY ALL THAT GREAT
PLEASE WELCOME AIRI!
WE HAVE TIME
WANNA GO SEE?
GUESS WE CAN JUST LEAVE IF IT'S BORING.
FPPP!
OOOHH!

EVENT STAGE
AIRI ISHIKAWA
FREE ADMISSION
SO THAT'S IT...!
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...!!
SOMETHING THAT THEY CAN LEAVE IF THEY'RE BORED
UNLIKE A CONCERT, A FREE EVENT IS...
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO ON. ARE YOU READY?
I'LL DO MY BEST!
..
CHHK!

YU... YUMI!!
WOW!
YOU GUYS IN THE BACK! CAN YOU FEEL IT!?
YEAAAAH!
I WAS WORRIED WHEN I SAW HER ON TV SHE SEEMED TIRED BUT
YEEAAAY!

JUST TALENT ISN'T ENOUGH..!!
KA-THUMP!
FLASH!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP!!
YEEAAAY!
THEN I'LL GO RIGHT INTO MY FIRST SONG!!
EVERYONE SING ALONG, OKAY? ♡
AND GET THEM PUMPED UP WITH ME!!
TO CATCH THEIR EYES, TO MATCH THEIR BREATHING...
YEEAAAY!!

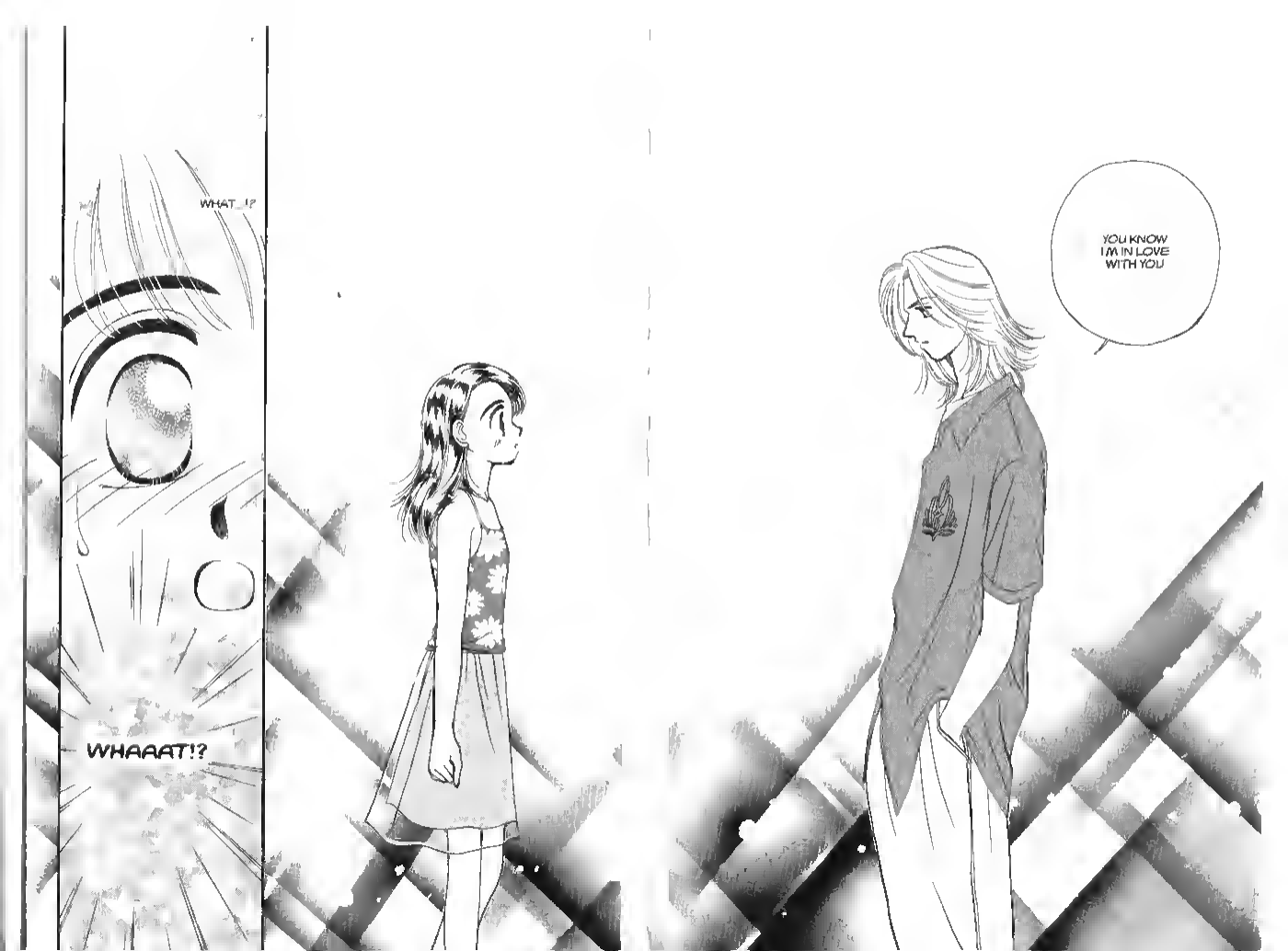
THE STAGE ISN'T JUST MINE ALONE
IT BELONGS TO EVERYONE—!!
IT'S PRETTY HARD, NURTURING A SINGER, HUH...
WHEW
WELL, YES
IT'S SUCH FUN!! TO SING— THE STAGE, I CAN'T HELP IT, IT'S SO EXCITING!!
YUP!
AS ALWAYS, AIRI IS GREAT!
SHE'S SHOWING THEM.
ISSA.

I HAD SOOOO... MUCH FUN!
THANK YOU SO MUCH EVERYONE, FOR COMING OUT TODAY!!
AND IT'S THANKS TO YOU!
LET'S MEET AGAIN SOON!!
THANKS!!
CLAP CLAP!
YAAAAY!
YAY!
AIRI!
EAAHH!

TH-THANKS! FOR ALL THAT...
I GUESS I SHOULD SAY THANKS.
THEY REALLY LIKED ME!!
SO MUCH THAT THE CROWD STILL HASN'T LEFT
I'LL JUST GO SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE OUT THERE.

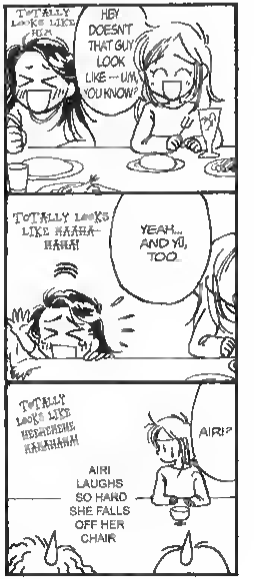
I THOUGHT WE'D JUST STOP BY..
BUT WE COULDN'T LEAVE COULD WE?
THAT WAS TOTALLY FUN!!
YOUR SONG WAS HECKA COOL! ♡
AND NOW I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN, AIR!!

GOOD. YOU WERE A REAL SUCCESS!
BAM!
MUSIC ROOM

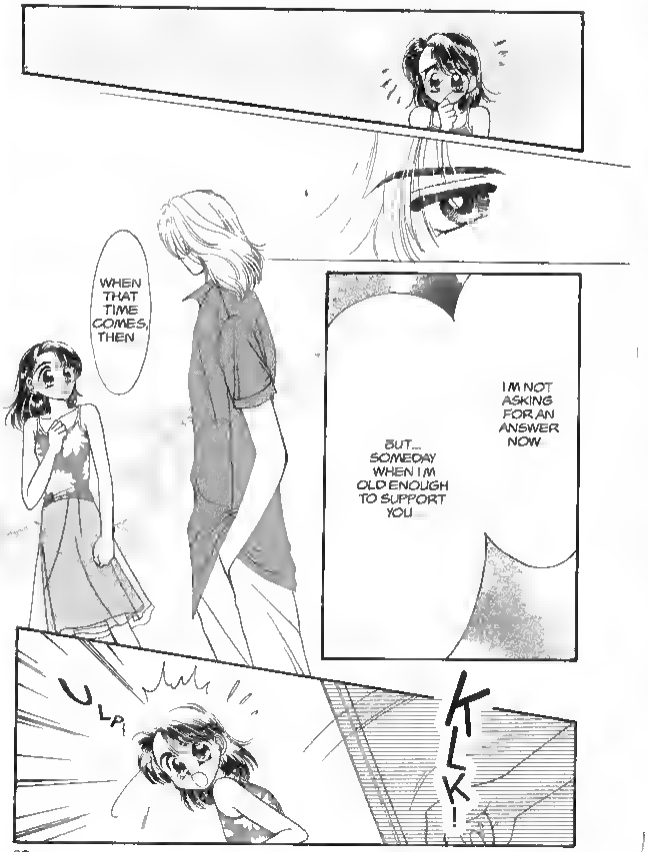

WHAT...!?
WHAAAT!?
YOU KNOW I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU,

B B THREE FRAME THEATRE 1


TOTALLY LOOKS LIKE HIM
HEY DOESN'T THAT GUY LOOK LIKE--UM YOU KNOW?
TOTALLY LOOKS LIKE HAAHA-HAHA!
YEAH... AND YÛ, TOO.
TOTALLY LOOKS LIKE HEEHEEHEE HAHAHAHA!
AIRI?
AIRI LAUGHS SO HARD SHE FALLS OFF HER CHAIR

THIS REALLY HAPPENED DURING A MEAL WITH AIRI AND YÛ. AIRI CRACKS ME UP!!


WHEN THAT TIME COMES, THEN
BUT... SOMEDAY WHEN I'M OLD ENOUGH TO SUPPORT YOU...
I'M NOT ASKING FOR AN ANSWER NOW.
ULP!
KLK!

I DID BELIEVE THAT AT FIRST.
REALLY
YOU'RE ALWAYS TEASING.
PLUS YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO QUIT BEING A SINGER.
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!
THAT'S SUCH A LIE!!
I START THINKING IT MIGHT NOT BE BAD TO LIVE MY LIFE LIKE THAT...
...WHEN I WATCH YOU...
BUT I THINK YOUR TALENT IS FOR REAL...

HEY!
AIRI!
AND ISSA AND EVERYBODY ELSE, TOO!!
YO! YUM!!

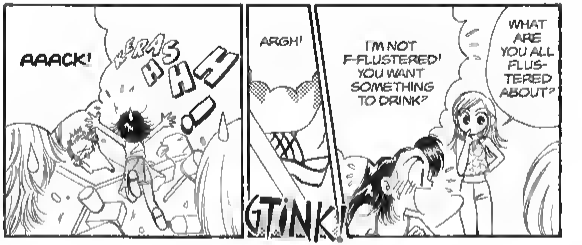
YOU'RE ALL HERE!
YUP!!
YOU WERE COOL!
YAAAY COOL!

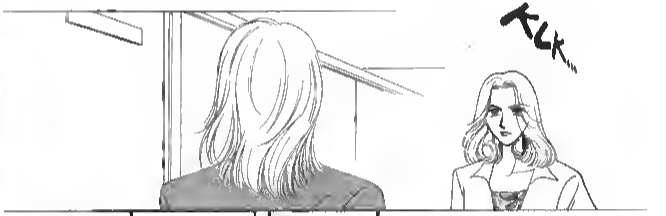
KLK
PFET
THAT GUY !? I KNOW HIM FROM SOME-WHERE...
IT'S MS. TAKAYA'S SON!!
HE JUST CAME BY TO WATCH
KA-THUMP!

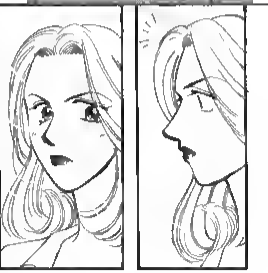
WILL YOU TEACH ME HOW TO BE A PRODUCER?
MOM...
WILL YOU..

AND IT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK OUT AS YOU PLANNED..
IT'S TOUGH...
HUH.. CHUCKLE!

I KNOW


AAACK!
ARGH!
GTINK!
I'M NOT F-FLUSTERED! YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
WHAT ARE YOU ALL FLUS-TERED ABOUT?

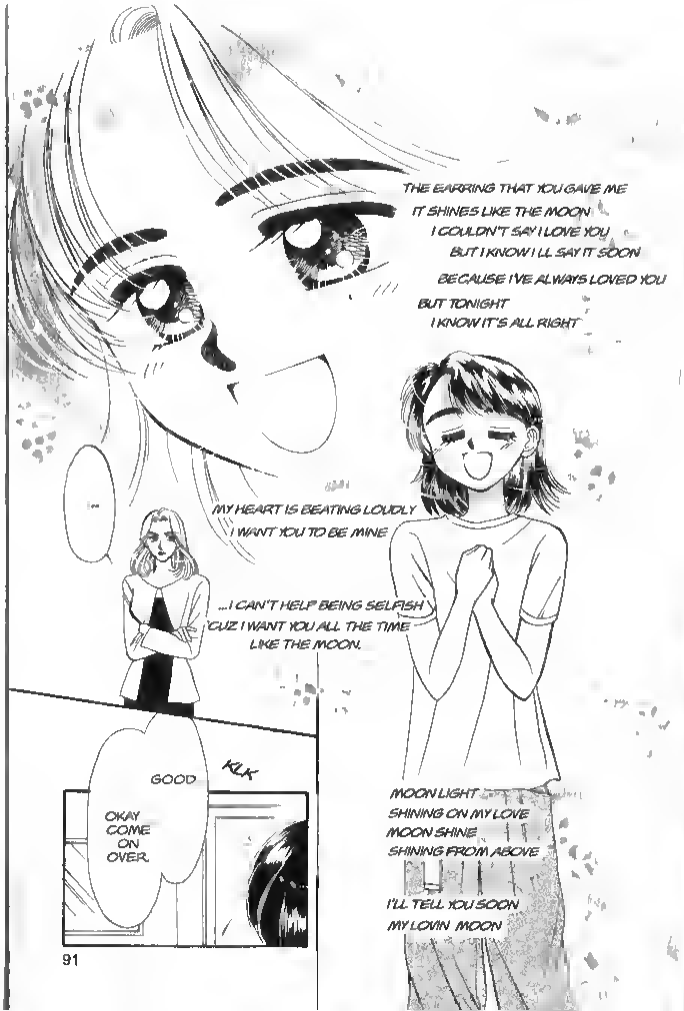

KLK...



MOM...

SO DOES THAT MEAN YOU LIKE HIM?
A GREAT TALENT AIMING FOR THE STARS BUT..
ISSA IS.
..NO.. IT'S NOT.. LIKE THAT..
THE RECORDING'S COMING UP SOON SO I GOTTA PRACTICE!
I GOT THE SONG FOR MY SECOND SINGLE TODAY!!
AHHH!
AAAARGH! GEEEZ!
RRRRRR-RRRRR!

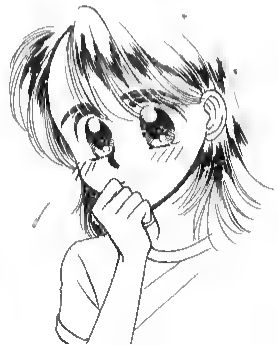
SIGH!
..I DO LIKE ISSA A LOT BUT, SOMEHOW..
I'M STARTING TO THINK IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT...
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT HIM? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED ISSA?
WHY IS YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS?
..Y YEAH...
SO EVERYTHING WENT GREAT!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR HIM SAY THAT..
BUT HE SURE SURPRISED ME..


THE EARRING THAT YOU GAVE ME
IT SHINES LIKE THE MOON
I COULDN'T SAY I LOVE YOU
BUT I KNOW I'LL SAY IT SOON
BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU
BUT TONIGHT
I KNOW IT'S ALL RIGHT
MY HEART IS BEATING LOUDLY
I WANT YOU TO BE MINE
...I CAN'T HELP BEING SELFISH
'CUZ I WANT YOU ALL THE TIME
LIKE THE MOON.
GOOD
KLK
OKAY
COME
ON
OVER.
MOON LIGHT
SHINING ON MY LOVE
MOON SHINE
SHINING FROM ABOVE
I'LL TELL YOU SOON
MY LOVIN MOON

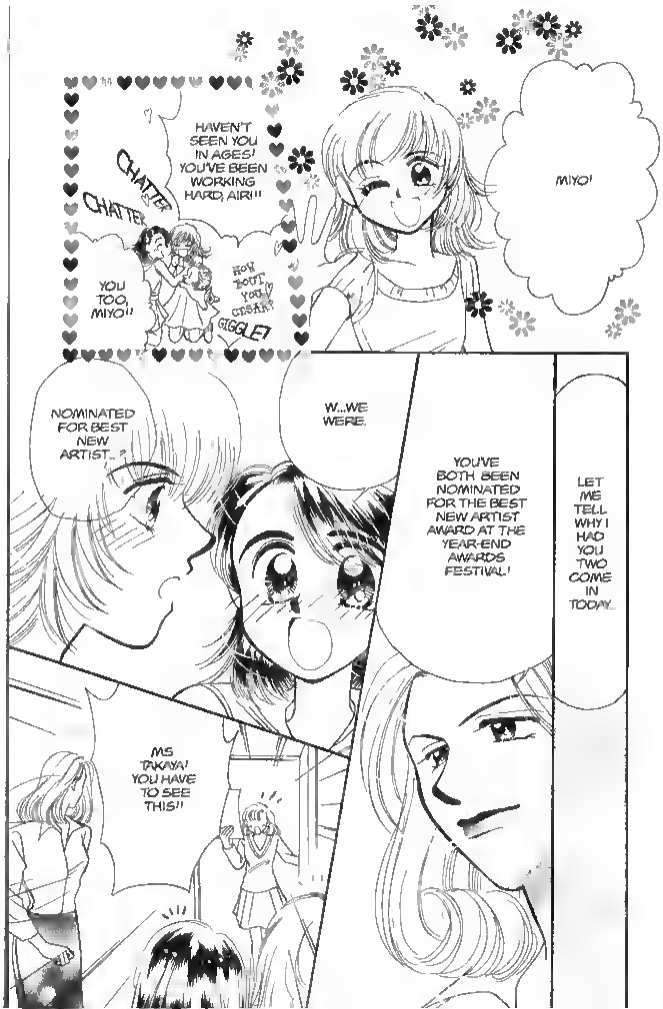
RECORDING STUDIO
TAKE ONE
SOUND ON!
OKAY THEN
"FIRST MOON"

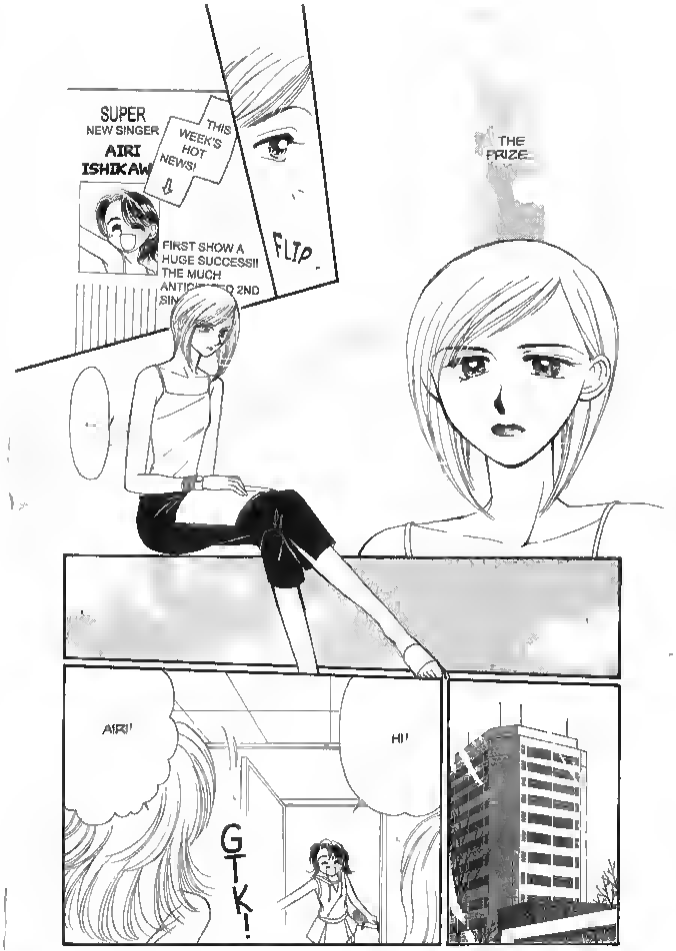
MEETING ROOM
GCH
MS. SELACA, THIS WEEK'S TOP 10 LIST IS HERE!
YOU'RE STILL IN 1ST PLACE!
KUROSAWA ENTERTAINMENT
MUSIC RECO
WELL, THIS YEAR'S AWARDS FESTIVAL PRIZE WILL DEFINITELY BE YOURS.
NO, IT'S YOUR HARD WORK, MS. SELACA.
YOU'RE SO MODEST ♡
IT'S THANKS TO ALL OF YOU ♡
REALLY!?
ORICON
TOP 100

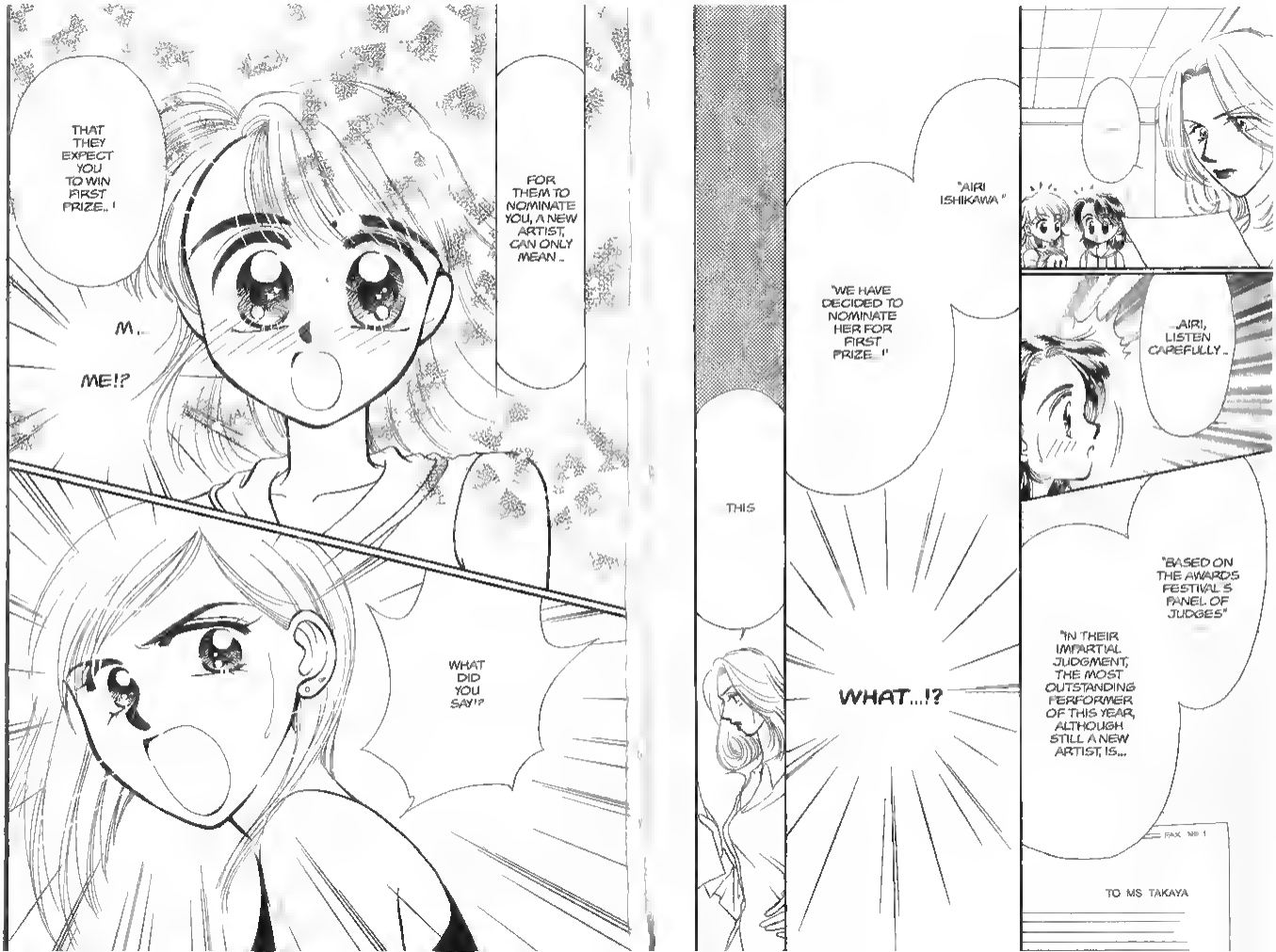
I COULD UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF THIS GIRL, HESITANT IN HER FIRST LOVE...
IT MADE EVEN ME BREATHLESS...
THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL!
AND YOUR FANS WILL FEEL THE SAME WAY, TOO.



DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU, AIRI? DID YOU FALL IN LOVE?
IT GOT ME, TOO.
GETTING ALL FLUSTERED
HA HA HA AHA HA!
N-NO WAY!! NOTHING HAPPENED!
N-NOTHING AT ALL...


HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES! YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD, AIRI!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
MIYO!
YOU TOO, MIYO!!
HOW 'BOUT YOUR CREAM?
GIGGLE!
NOMINATED FOR BEST NEW ARTIST...?
W...WE WERE.
YOU'VE BOTH BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE BEST NEW ARTIST AWARD AT THE YEAR-END AWARDS FESTIVAL!
LET ME TELL WHY I HAD YOU TWO COME IN TODAY.
MS TAKAYA! YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS!!


SUPER NEW SINGER
AIRI ISHIKAWA
THIS WEEK'S HOT NEWS!
FIRST SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS!! THE MUCH
FLIP
THE PRIZE...
AIRI!
HI!
GTK!

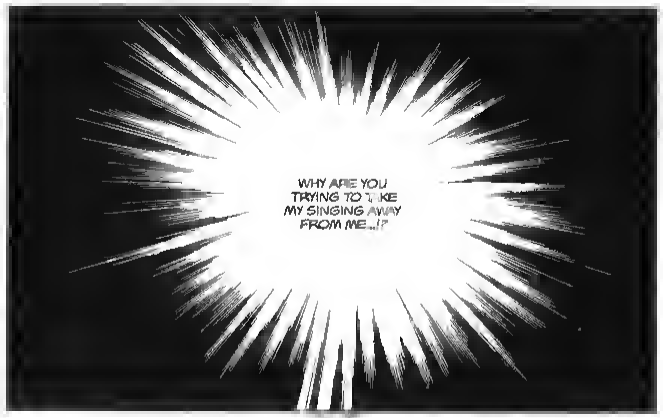

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
FOR THEM TO NOMINATE YOU, A NEW ARTIST, CAN ONLY MEAN..
THAT THEY EXPECT YOU TO WIN FIRST PRIZE..!
M..
ME!?
THIS
"AIRI ISHIKAWA"
"WE HAVE DECIDED TO NOMINATE HER FOR FIRST PRIZE..!"
WHAT...!?
..AIRI, LISTEN CAREFULLY..
"BASED ON THE AWARDS FESTIVAL'S PANEL OF JUDGES"
"IN THEIR IMPARTIAL JUDGMENT, THE MOST OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH STILL A NEW ARTIST, IS..."
FAX NR 1
TO MS TAKAYA

SINCE IT'S A NEW SONG FOR ME
AND NOW I FEEL EVEN MORE NERVOUS ABOUT TODAY'S LIVE BROADCAST
IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT
YOU MUST BE SURPRISED BECAUSE IT'S ALL SO SUDDEN
RIGHT, AIRI?
CHUCKLE
HEY, H-HOLD IT RIGHT THERE PLEASE!!
SONG-STAGE
SHEEEK!
GOOD MORNING
BANG!
DO THEY KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK FOR OUR SELACA TO REACH THIS POINT!?
THE NEWCOMER AIRI ISHIKAWA WAS NOMINATED FOR FIRST PRIZE!?
...DON'T WORRY, SELACA
I'LL MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THAT FIRST PRIZE
CRUSH!

TO PREVENT YOU FROM GETTING FIRST PRIZE IT'S SABOTAGE...!
WHY...
ALL I WANT TO DO IS SING...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I WANT TO TALK TO THE DIRECTOR!!
W.. WELL..
WAIT...! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
...WHAT!?
THERE'S NO PERFORMANCE SCHEDULED TODAY FOR MS ISHIKAWA.
AND, UM, SINCE THEY'RE SUCH A BIG, IMPORTANT COMPANY ER...
AND WE'RE TOLD THAT WE CANNOT WORK WITH MS ISHIKAWA..
WE WERE JUST CONTACTED BY KUROSAWA ENTERTAINMENT...
AH.. THAT IS...
MAY I ASSUME THAT IT WAS SELACA'S STAFF..!?
BY KUROSAWA ENTERTAINMENT...

WHY L
AIRI CU
ON? THE
TV GUIDE
SAID CLEAR
COMPLETELY MADE ME NOT WANT TO WATCH THE PROGRAM ANY MORE!!
PLEASE PU AIRI ON!
I AM VERY TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY!!
AFTER THE PROGRAM AIRED WITHOUT AIRI, WE WERE BOMBARDED WITH COMPLAINTS...
MOUNTAINS OF LETTERS AND FAXES ARE STILL PILING UP
PLEASE PUT AIRI ON YOUR PROGRAM! WHY WASN'T SHE ON THE OTHER DAY?
I WA O LOOKING FORWARD TO AIRI BEING ON!! I EVE PREORDERED A V
A FAITHFU VIEWER
PLEASE HAVE AIRI ON!
AT THIS RATE NOBODY WILL BE LEAVING YOU ALONE
HMMF!
IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF OUR SHOW, THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
AND ON BEHALF OF THE PROGRAM I WOULD SINCERELY LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DESIRE TO HAVE HER PERFORM ON SONG STAGE.


WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO T KE MY SINGING AWAY FROM ME..!?

MS TAKAYA, PHONE CALL.
WHO IS IT!?
IT'S FROM THE PROGRAM PRODUCER OF "SONG-STAGE".
AIRI, TODAY S RECORDING...
IT'S BEEN CANCELLED AGAIN...

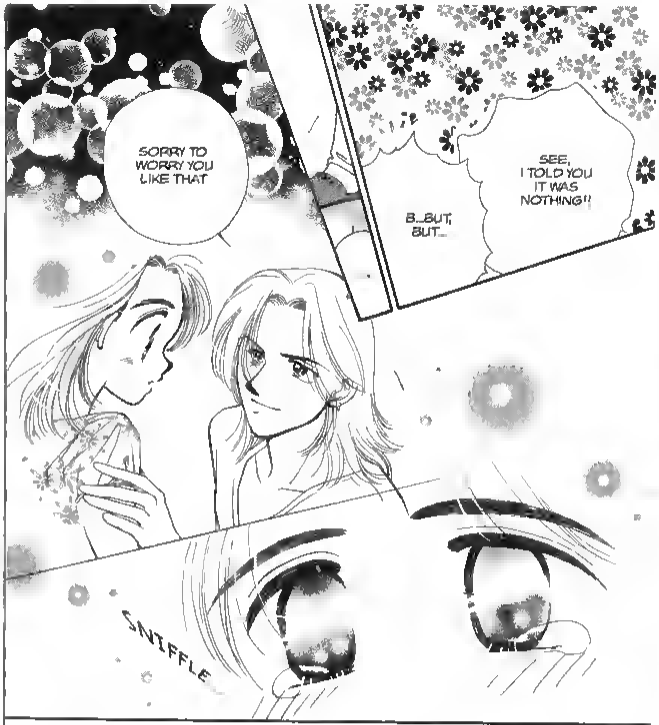
ALL RIGHT THEN MS ISHIKAWA WE'RE GOING ON AIR
SOME LITTLE THING..
JUST SO LONG AS SHE CAN'T CONTINUE IN THE RACE FOR FIRST PRIZE
WE'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES FOR YOU, SELACA!
RIGHT?
GIGGLE!
GIGGLE!

EVERYBODY WANTS TO HEAR YOUR SONG!

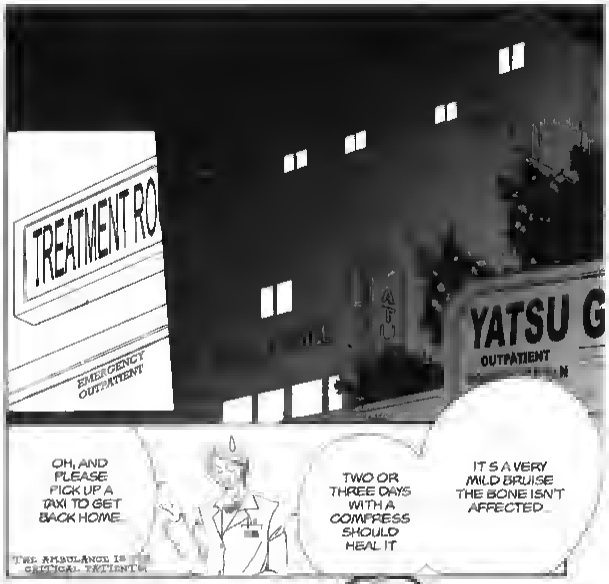
K. KINDA MAKES ME SHY..
GOOD LUCK.
THUMP!
YO.

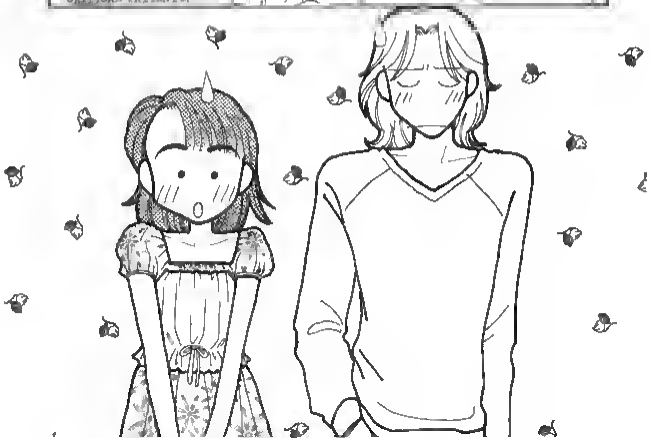
CRASH!!
WHAT HAPPENED!?
THE LIGHTS FELL...
KH...
MASACHIKA!
S... SOMEONE... CALL AN AMBULANCE...
OOF!
NO, I'M OKAY.
HEY... SERIOUSLY, I'M ALL RIGHT
AN AMBULANCE... HURRY!!

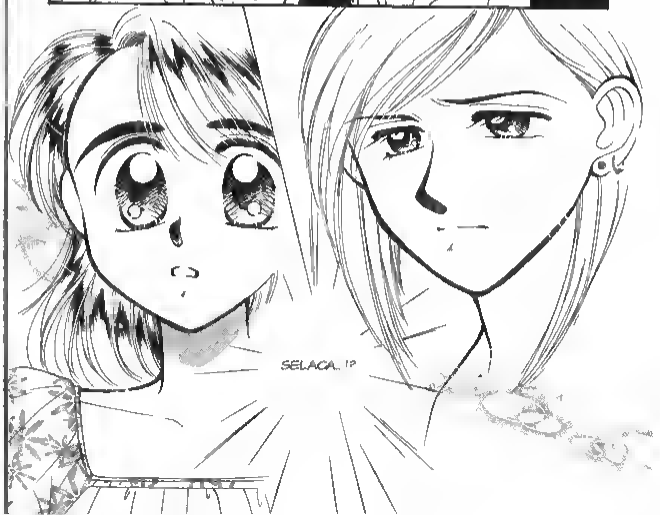
-ZOOM!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OKAY, GREAT!
AHH!
KERASH!
PULL!
WATCH OUT!


SORRY TO WORRY YOU LIKE THAT
B...BUT, BUT...
SEE, I TOLD YOU IT WAS NOTHING!!
SNIFFLE

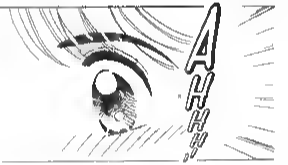
HURRY THE TAXI WILL BE HERE SOON
OH..I GOTTA GO WASH MY FACE!
UGH
PATTER
PITTER


TREATMENT RO
EMERGENCY OUTPATIENT
YATSU G
OUTPATIENT
OH, AND PLEASE PICK UP A TAXI TO GET BACK HOME
TWO OR THREE DAYS WITH A COMPRESS SHOULD HEAL IT
IT'S A VERY MILD BRUISE THE BONE ISN'T AFFECTED



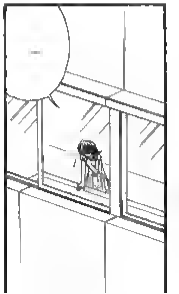


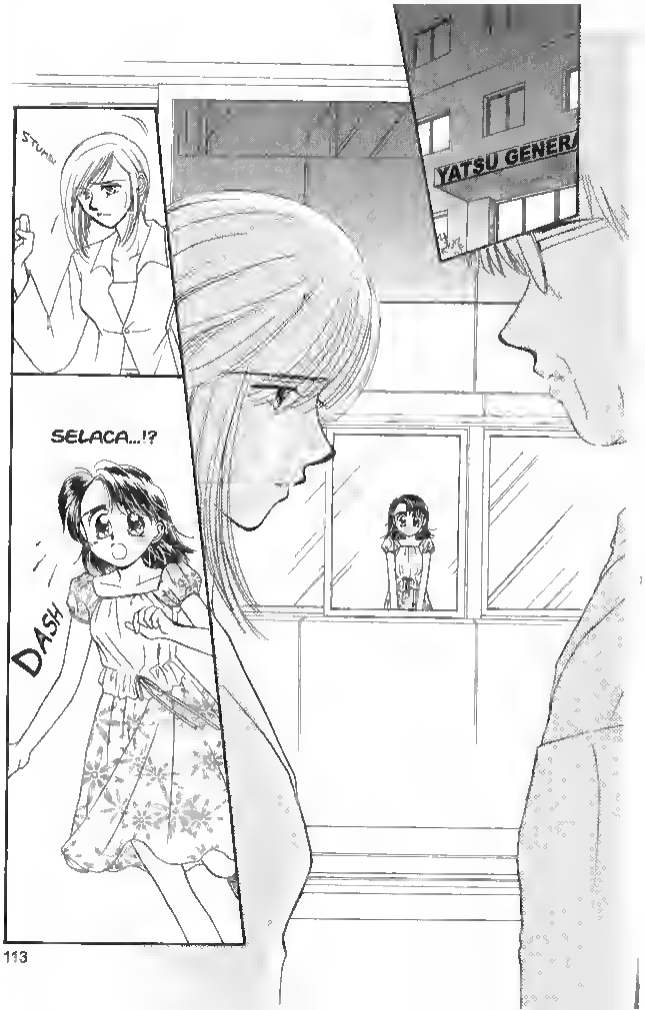
I'M SO RELIEVED THAT HE'S OKAY.



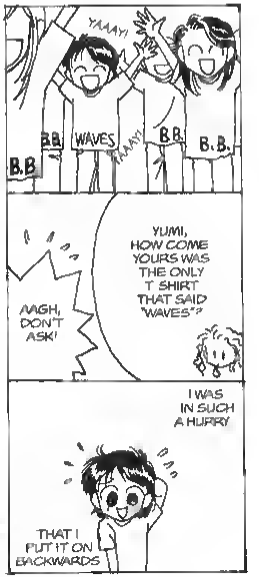
AND WHY IS MY HEART RACING...

OH, GEEZ, I WHY DO I FEEL SUCH RELIEF..?

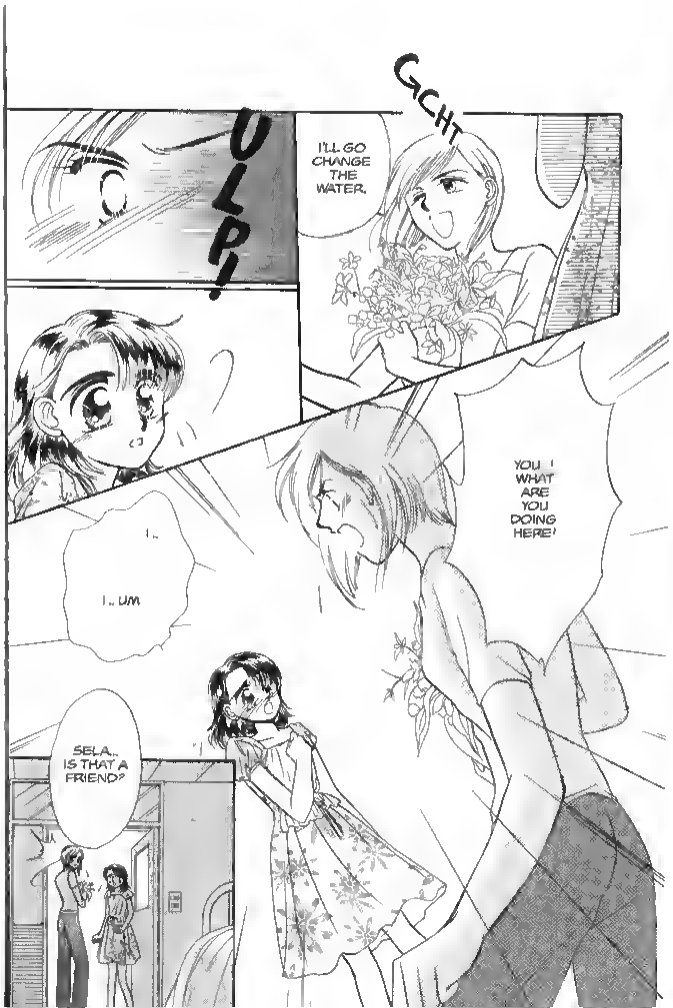


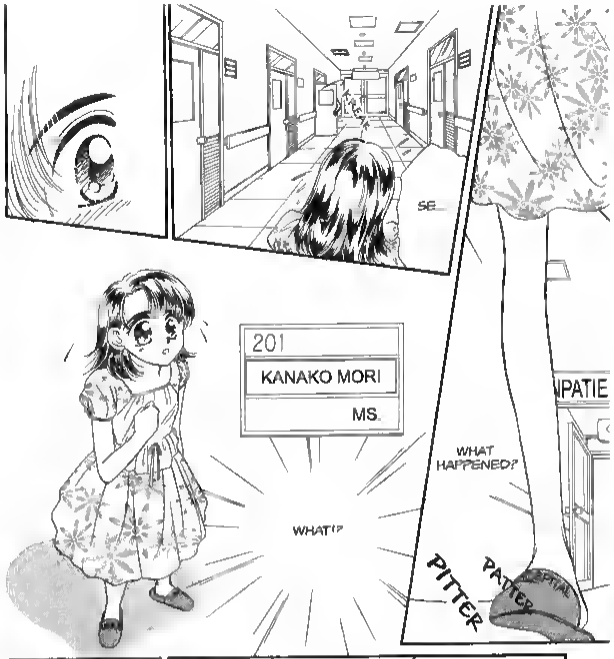


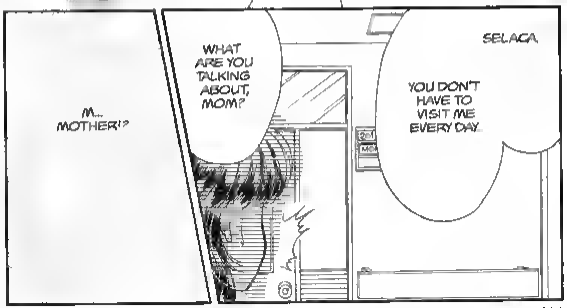
B B 3 PANEL THEATRE – 2



THIS HAPPENED AT ONE OF THE REGULAR CONCERTS APPARENTLY. SOME PEOPLE IN THE CROWD NOTICED IT TOO


GACHI
I'LL GO CHANGE THE WATER.
U L P !
YOU ! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!
I..
I.. UM
SELA.. IS THAT A FRIEND?


SE
201
KANAKO MORI
MS.
WHAT!?
WHAT HAPPENED?
PITTER
PATTER

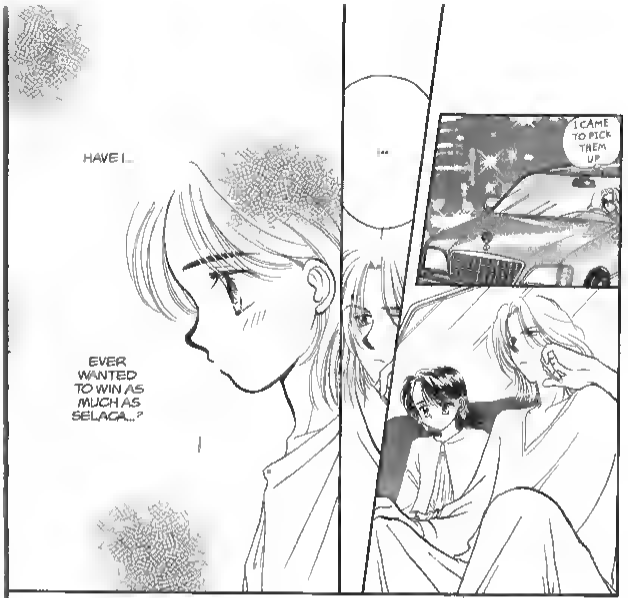

M... MOTHER!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MOM?
SELACA
YOU DON'T HAVE TO VISIT ME EVERY DAY.

SELA HAS ALWAYS LOVED TO SING, SINCE SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL...
SHE SINGS FOR ME...
WHAT...? UM, WELL...
NO!
HAS SHE BEEN TEASING YOU?
I'M SORRY...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, SINCE I GOT SICK...
SHE'S GROWN SO INTENSE...
SHE SEEMS TO FEEL SHE NEEDS TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING BY HERSELF...
OH
OH, NO, IT'S OKAY!!
I'M SORRY, TALKING LIKE THIS...

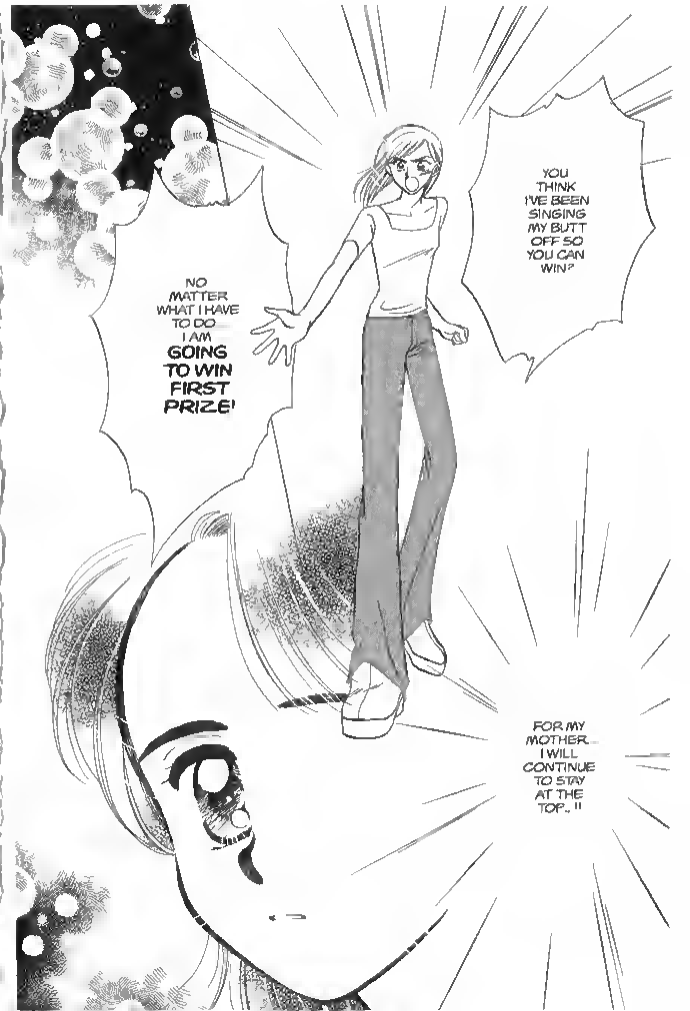
AIRI ISHIKAWA... RIGHT?
YOU MUST BE...
UM, YES!
NOT A FRIEND...
OH, MY THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SELA HAS BROUGHT A FRIEND OVER...
I'M GOING TO CHANGE THE WATER.

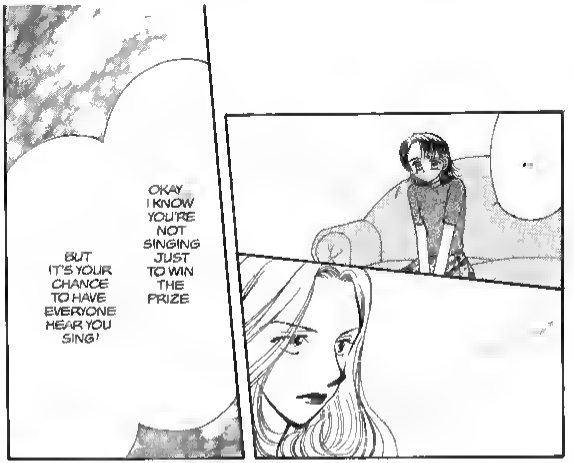
...PITY IS FOR LOSERS...
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, OKAY?!
I'M KEEPING THIS A SECRET FROM EVERYONE...
I DON'T WANT THE MEDIA TO MAKE A CIRCUS OUT OF THIS
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
IF YOU TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS
KLK

BE GOOD TO HER, WON'T YOU?
SMILE
UM..
I HOPE YOUR MOM GETS BETTER SOON.
SPLASH

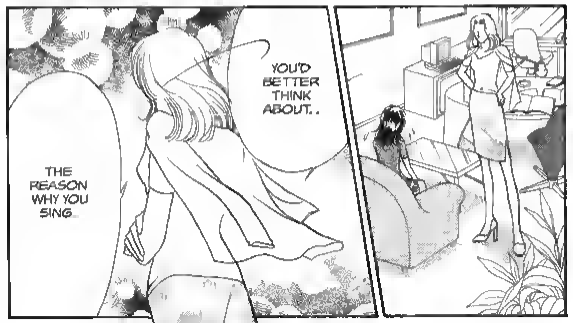

HAVE I...
EVER WANTED TO WIN AS MUCH AS SELACA...?
...
I CAME TO PICK THEM UP

YOU WANT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMPETITION!?
TR PRODUCT
THE REAL DEAL!
AIRI ISHIKAWA
SINGLE
SELACA
V.S.
AIRI


NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO DO... I AM GOING TO WIN FIRST PRIZE!
YOU THINK I'VE BEEN SINGING MY BUTT OFF SO YOU CAN WIN?
FOR MY MOTHER... I WILL CONTINUE TO STAY AT THE TOP..!!


OKAY I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SINGING JUST TO WIN THE PRIZE
BUT IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE EVERYONE HEAR YOU SING!

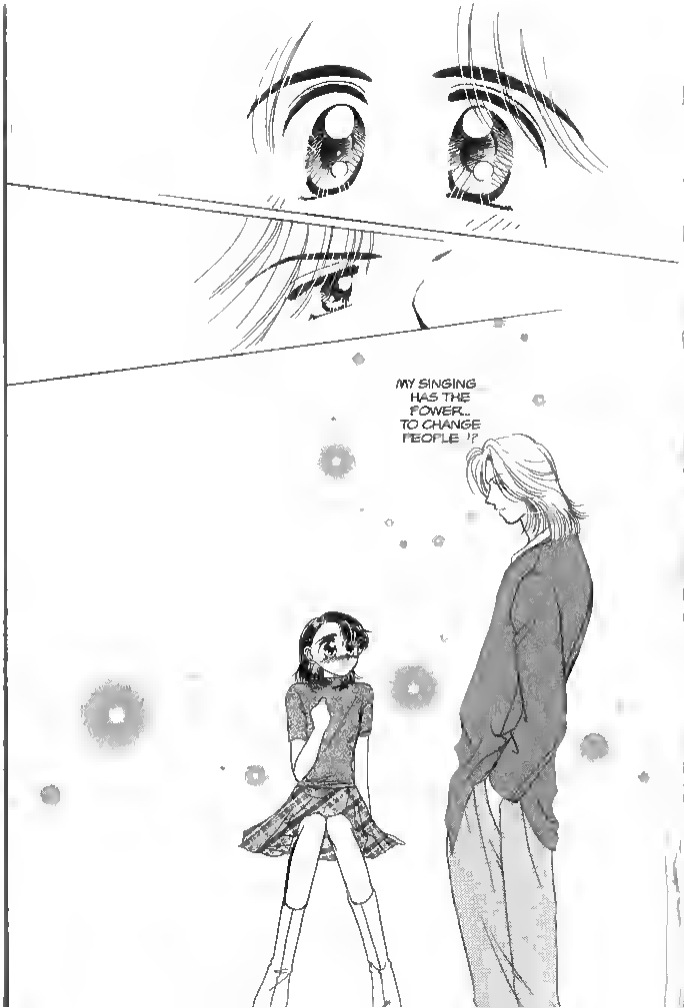
BUT...


THE REASON WHY YOU SING..
YOU'D BETTER THINK ABOUT..

THE... REASON WHY!?
KANTO TV
BONK!
A REASON WHY...
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT ..REALLY
VACANT ROO

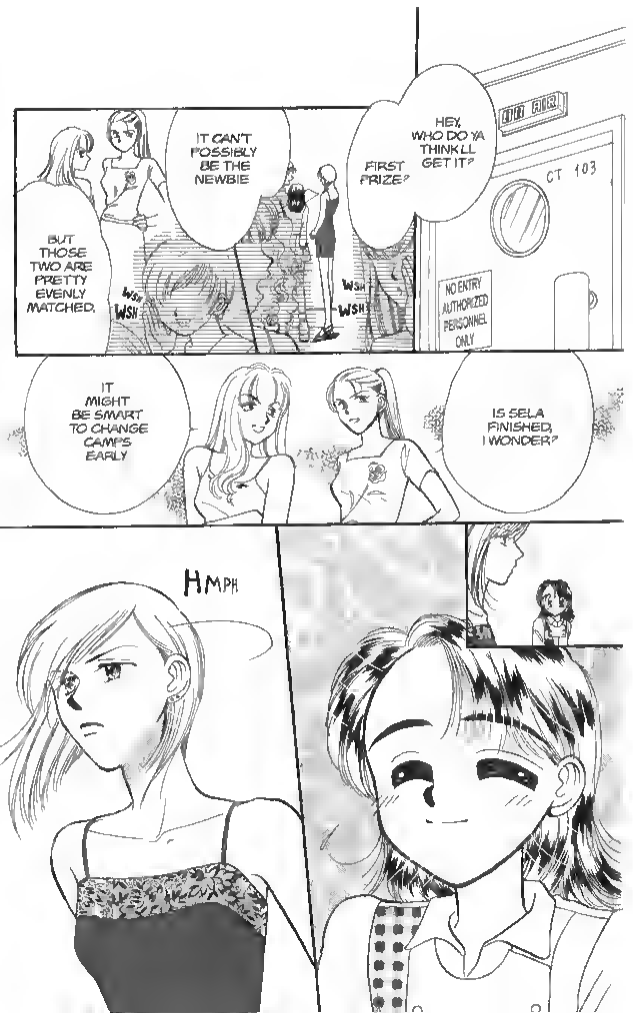
MY SONGS... ARE THEY EVEN WORTH ANYTHING?
DOES MY SINGING HELP ANYONE?
..BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

YO! I CAME TO SEE YOUR RECORDING.
..
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
WHASSUP? YOU SEEM DOWN.
WHY I SING..
I DON'T KNOW..
I...
GEEEH...


MY SINGING HAS THE POWER.. TO CHANGE PEOPLE !?

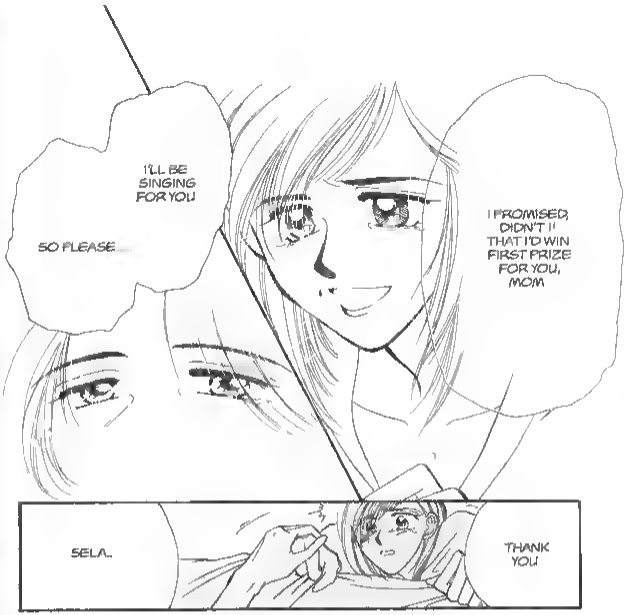
YOUR SINGING HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE EVEN ME

SNAP!
SLIP
OHHH_!?
GREAT JOB
GOOD JOB!
GOOD WORK EVERYONE WE'RE FINISHED WITH RECORDING
H-HUNH?
PRRR
PRRRR
PRRRR...


BUT THOSE TWO ARE PRETTY EVENLY MATCHED.
IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE NEWBIE
FIRST PRIZE?
HEY, WHO DO YA THINK'LL GET IT?
WSH
WSH
WSH
CT 103
NO ENTRY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
IT MIGHT BE SMART TO CHANGE CAMPS EARLY
IS SELA FINISHED, I WONDER?
HMPH

SECRET EVEN TO THE COMPANY..
SELA!?
I'LL COME AS SOON AS I CAN TOO.
PLEASE!! THE HOSPITAL FROM BEFORE.
YOU CAN GET THERE QUICK BY BIKE, RIGHT?
OKAY
PLEASE TAKE SELACA!

SELACA!?
CLATTER
!
MOTHE

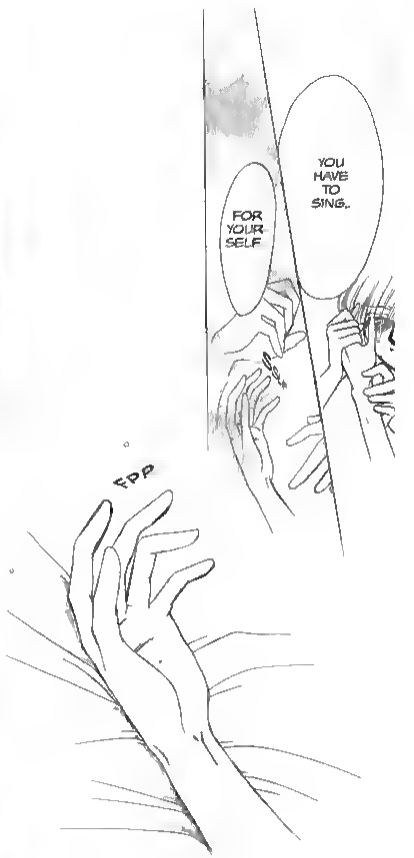

I'LL BE SINGING FOR YOU
SO PLEASE...
I PROMISED, DIDN'T I? THAT I'D WIN FIRST PRIZE FOR YOU, MOM
SELA..
THANK YOU

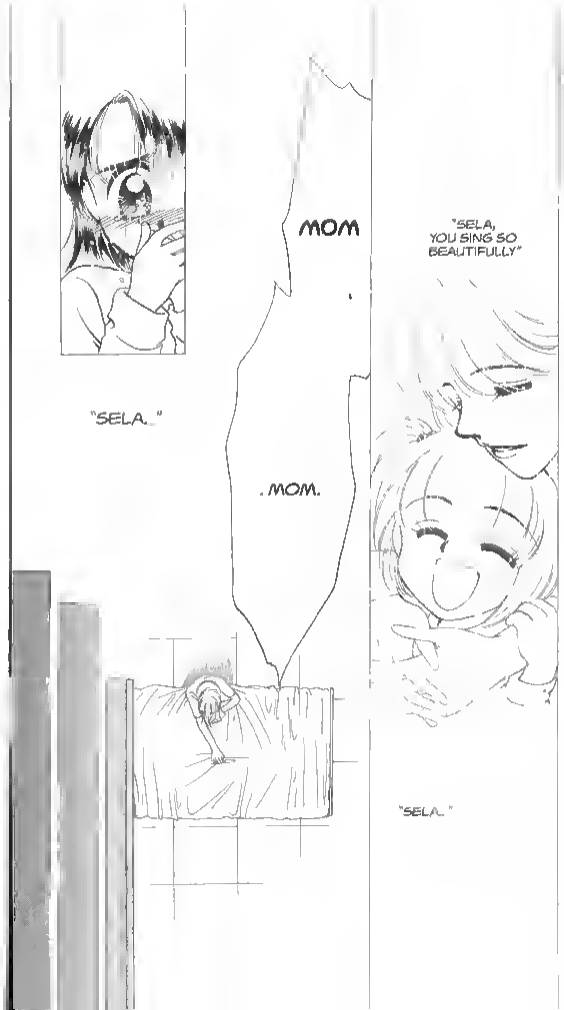
FROM NOW ON...

201
KANAKO MOR
YATSU GENERAL HOSPITAL
MOTHER!!
MOTHER!!

HOLD ON!
...SELA..
SUCH A LONG TIME I'M SORRY

MOTHER...?
WAKE UP?


YOU HAVE TO SING..
FOR YOUR SELF
EPP


"SELA..."
MOM
. MOM.
"SELA, YOU SING SO BEAUTIFULLY"
"SELA.."

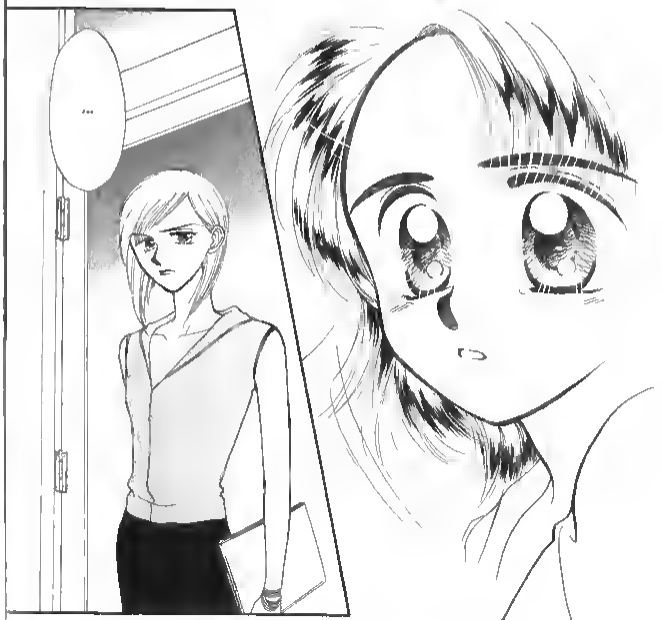
SELA...
MOM...!!
OPEN YOUR EYES! MOM...!
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE !

TODAY'S PERFORMERS
AIRI ISHIKAWA
SELACA MORI
TV
I WONDER IF SHE'LL COME TODAY SELACA..
THE PRESIDENT WAS REALLY MAD, TOO SHE IS SO OVER.
HER POPULARITY IS TOTALLY GOING DOWN THE TUBES!
YOU THINK SELA WILL BE A NO-SHOW AGAIN TODAY!?

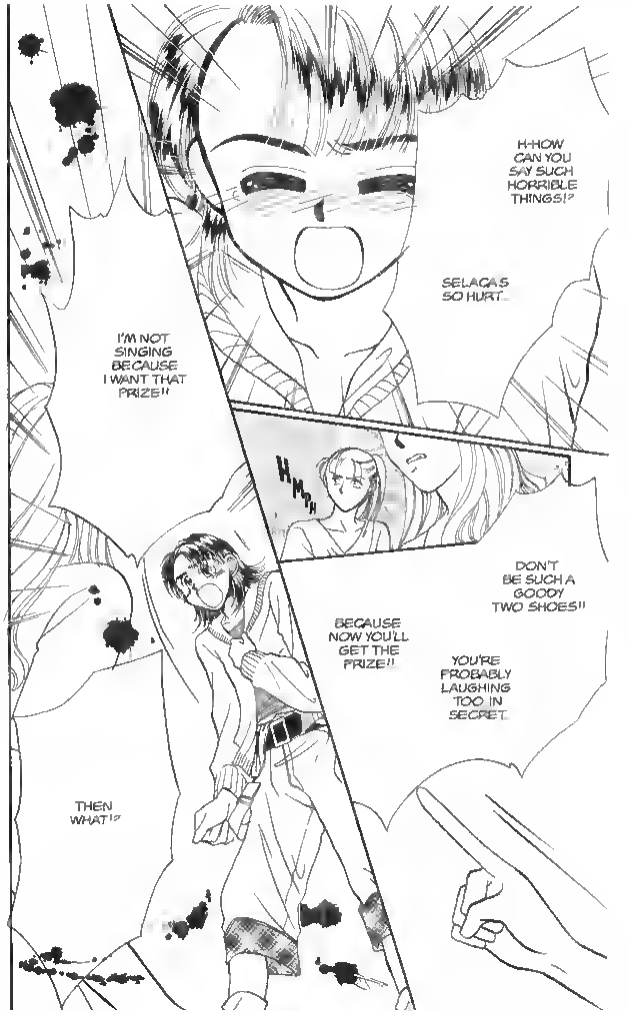
MUTTER
WHAT'S UP WITH HER? IS THAT HOW A TOP IDOL IS SUPPOSED TO ACT?
STOP IT!! I SAID NO PICTURES!!
I KNOW IT'S HARD LOSING YOUR ONLY FAMILY BUT..
MUTTER
SMACK!!
WHAT A BITCH
SELACA
FINALLY REVEALED! UPON HER MOTHER'S DEATH! SELACA MORI'S TRUE NATURE! REFUSES TO GIVE INTERVIEWS!
ARROGANT!
FATHER ALSO DECEASED..

...I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!!
SELAGA WAS ALL ALONE THE WHOLE TIME...!!
...HOW...
GLEN!!!
GIGGLE
HA HA HA
YEAH, RIGHT, BEST FRIENDS
WE ARE HER FRIENDS! RIGHT?
GIGGLE

OH AIR!
!!
GOOD MORNING!
SHE SAID IF WE DIDN'T DO IT, SHE'D FIX IT SO WE'D NEVER BE ON THE SHOW.
BUT YOU KNOW, SELA MADE US
SORRY WE WERE KINDA MEAN AWHILE AGO
BUT REALLY WE WANTED TO BE YOUR FRIEND
CONGRATULATIONS! NOW YOU'LL GET FIRST PRIZE FOR SURE!
WEREN'T YOU, SELAGA'S FRIENDS...?
BOTH OF YOU..



TO BE CONTINUED


H-HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS!?
SELAGA'S SO HURT...
I'M NOT SINGING BECAUSE I WANT THAT PRIZE!!
HMMM
DON'T BE SUCH A GOODY TWO SHOES!!
BECAUSE NOW YOU'LL GET THE PRIZE!!
YOU'RE PROBABLY LAUGHING TOO IN SECRET.
THEN WHAT!?

B B 3 PANEL THEATRE - 3

THIS HAPPENED WHEN
I BROUGHT OVER THE
1ST INSTALLMENT OF
B B EXPLOSION
THEY JUST DIDN'T KNOW
I WAS A MANGA ARTIST!!

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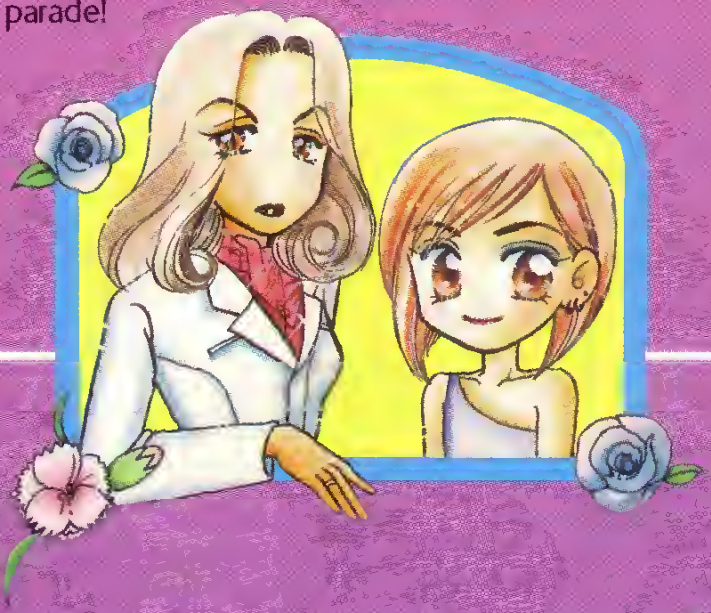
After releasing her first hit single, Airi is pleased to find out that she's been nominated for the Grand Prix Artist of the Year award. But this news sends reigning pop princess Selaca into a pique of jealous rage.

The unscrupulous singer orders her management company to nip Airi's blossoming career in the bud. There can only be one queen of pop and Selaca will stop at nothing to boot Airi off the hit parade!



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